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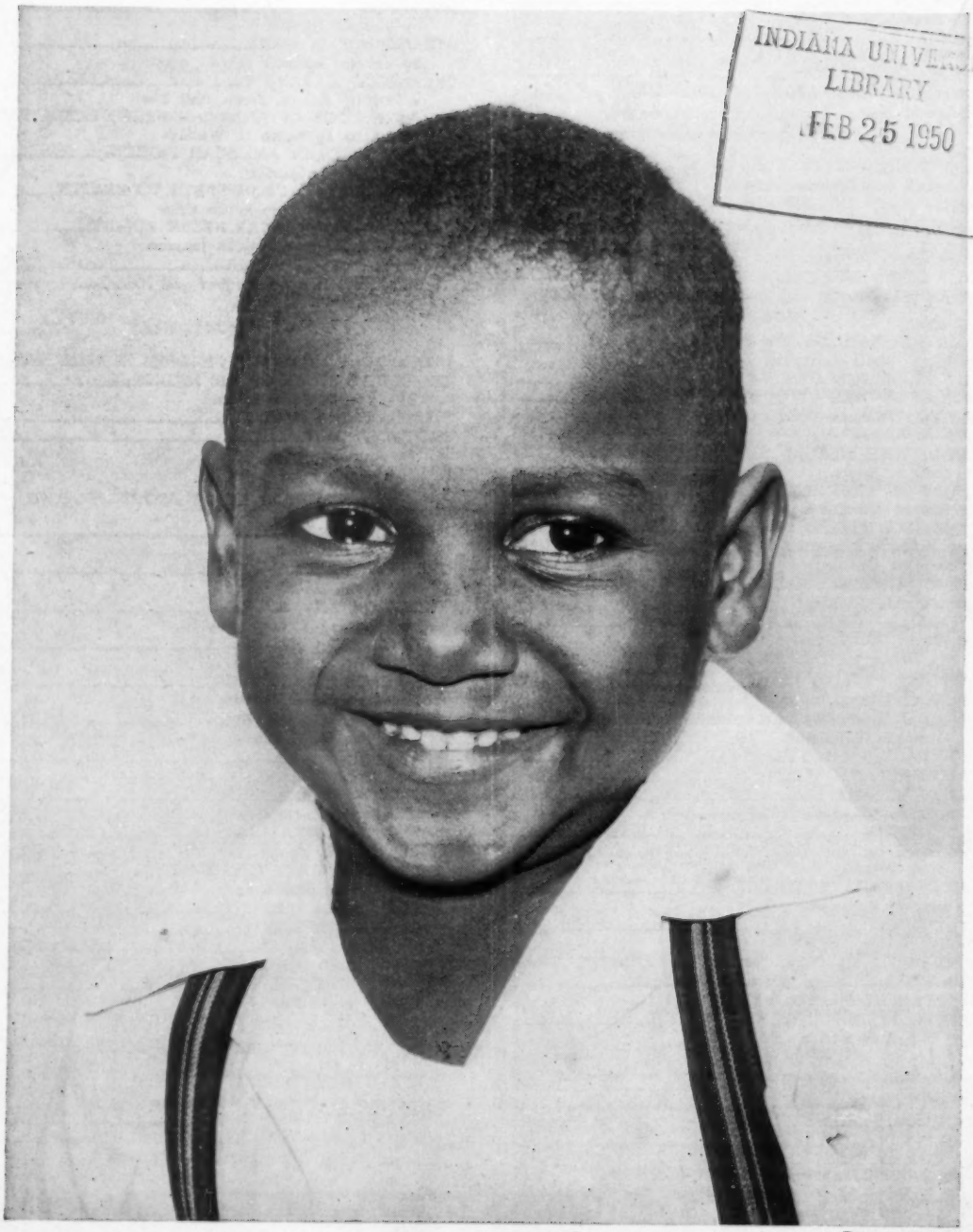

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Vol. 56, No. 7 Whole Number 463

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THE CRISIS *was founded in 1910 and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.* THE CRISIS *is published monthly from October to July inclusive and bimonthly August-September by The Crisis Publishing Co., Inc., at 20 West 40th Street, New York 18, N. Y. Dr. Louis T. Wright, president; Walter White, secretary; and Mrs. Lillian A. Alexander, treasurer. The subscription price is $1.50 a year or 15 cents a copy. Foreign subscriptions $1.75. The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscription may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and three weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care, it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November 2, 1910, at the post office at New York, N. Y. under the act of March 3, 1879.*

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EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

COVER—Little three-year-old Cornelius Bumpus is the youngest member of the Santa Cruz, California, branch of the NAACP.

•

ERNEST E. JOHNSON is a newspaperman of twenty-years experience who headed the Washington bureau of the Associated Negro Press during the war years. In that same period, he was a frequent contributor to *The Crisis*.

•

JOHN W. PARKER is an instructor in English at Fayetteville State Teachers College, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

•

JOSEPH D. CHARLES is Haitian ambassador to the United States.

•

THE PANTHEON stands on the highest ground on the left bank in Paris on the site of the tomb of Sainte Genevieve, the patron saint of Paris. It was originally designed to be the church of Sainte Genevieve and was built by Louis XV from plans by Soufflot. But in 1791 the Convention converted it into a memorial temple, naming it the Panthéon, and inscribing on its front: "Aux grands hommes la patrie reconnaissante," which might be Englished as "The country is grateful to its great men." Used as a mausoleum for France's illustrious dead, it now houses such famous Frenchmen as Victor Hugo, Carnot, and others. To be buried in the Panthéon is roughly equivalent to being buried in Westminster Abbey, England. For America has no counterpart of either the Panthéon or the Abbey.

•

ARTHUR E. BURKE (who reviews *Alien Land*, page 219) is associate professor of English at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia. WARREN ST. JAMES (who reviews *The Negro's Adventure in General Business*, page 220) teaches at Stowe Teachers College, St. Louis, Missouri.

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COLLEGE and SCHOOL NEWS

Twenty-year-old Sherill Lake has been elected the first Negro president of the student body at the UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT LOS ANGELES for the year 1949-50. He won by a 400-vote majority over his nearest rival Don Hovey.

The commencement address at FLORIDA NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE on May 31 was delivered by Dr. J. Ollie Edmunds, president of John B. Stetson university, Deland, Florida. The baccalaureate sermon was preached on May 29 by Rev. Jacob C. Oglesby, pastor of Mt. Zion church, Pensacola, Florida.

The NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters to Dr. Ralph J. Bunche for "having by infinite patience, great ingenuity and dogged persistence, brought to an end the warfare in the Near East and shed new lustre upon the United Nations. He is a citizen of whom his country is very proud."

O'Farrell Julien, head of the stockroom and purchasing agent for LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY, was honored on May 6 by 500 members of the LIU alumni association and presented with an engraved gold watch as a token of undergraduate, faculty, and alumni esteem.

The commencement address at LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE on May 31 was delivered by Dr. J. Henry Highsmith, director division of instructional service, Raleigh, North Carolina.

CHEYNEY TRAINING SCHOOL FOR TEACHERS commencement speaker on May 24 was Dr. Alfred H. Williams, president Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Pa. Seventy-two bachelor of science degrees were awarded in the areas of elementary education, home economics, and the industrial arts.

Mrs. Sadie G. Washington, director of the division of home economics at LANGSTON UNIVERSITY, has been recently appointed a teaching-fellow at New York university beginning with the fall term 1949-50. In addition to her teaching duties, Mrs. Washington will pursue work leading to a doctor's degree in home economics.

LUCILLE BRANTLEY

One of the honor students at Fontbonne college, the Women's Corporate college of ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY, is Lucille Howard Brantley, daughter of G. D. Brantley, principal of the Sumner high school, St. Louis, Mo. Miss Brantley, the first Negro ever to be registered at Fontbonne and the youngest graduate in the department of home economics, received her B. S. degree in the department of home economics in June. She plans to continue her work toward a master's degree at the University of Chicago.

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME has announced the award of a Rome Prize Fellowship in musical composition to Ulysses Kay, of New York City. This fellowship is for one year beginning October 1, 1949, and is valued at approximately $3,000, including transportation to and from Italy and residence at the Academy in Rome.

Born in Tucson, Arizona, Mr. Kay attended public schools there and began piano lessons at the age of seven. After graduating from the University of Arizona in 1938, Mr. Kay worked under Bernard Rogers and Howard Hanson at the Eastman School of Music, of the University of Rochester, receiving his M. Mus. degree from that university in 1940. He then studied with Paul Hindemith at Tanglewood, and at Yale university. Enlisting in the Navy in 1942, he served in a Navy

band until his discharge in January 1946. Since that time he has been attending Columbia university. His works have been performed by the Rochester Civic Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Juilliard Orchestra, Columbus (Ohio) Philharmonic, and the Detroit Symphony, among others.

The S. H. Archer Memorial Infirmary at MOREHOUSE COLLEGE, opened last fall to the students, faculty, and administrative staff of the college, recently received the gift of an ultra-modern X-ray machine from the Milbank Memorial Fund of New York City. The Archer Infirmary has thirty-four beds, including one private and two semi-private wards.

Eighty-second commencement exercises of the college were addressed on June 7 by Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, president of Howard university. Baccalaureate speaker for Morehouse and other schools in the university system was Dr. Georgia Harkness, professor of applied theology at the Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois.

The fifth annual minister's conference was held at the college July 5-8. Lectures and discussions this year dealt with the Old Testament, New Testament theology, effective worship, and pastoral counselling. Among the lecturers were Dr. Davie Napier, director of the school of religion, University of Georgia; Dr. Dale Moody, professor of systematic theology, Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky; Dr. Richard I. McKinney, president, Storer college, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia; and Lucius M. Tobin, Morehouse school of religion.

EDITOR CHESTER A. FRANKLIN *(left) of the Kansas City, Mo., Call receives award for 30 years of distinguished newspaper work at Headliner Week banquet sponsored by the Lincoln university (Mo.) school of journalism on May 3. The award was made by President Sherman D. Scruggs of Lincoln (right).*

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Thirty-ninth "critical service" rating of the Associated Collegiate Press awarded the *Maroon Tiger,* Morehouse student publication, a "first-class excellent" citation for the first semester of 1948-49. This is the third consecutive "first-class" citation received by the Morehouse paper, edited by Lerone Bennett, Jr.

James N. Mitchell, a Morehouse sophomore, won first prize in the John L. Webb oratorical contest held on May 6 in the college chapel. Second prize went to William L. Carter, a freshman; and third prize to William Mosley, a sophomore.

The commencement speaker at ATLANTA UNIVERSITY on June 6 was Dr. Luther Harris Evans, Librarian of Congress. A native of Sayersville, Texas, and a graduate of the University of Texas and Stanford university, Dr. Evans has taught at Stanford, Darmouth, Princeton, and New York university.

The Atlanta university summer school, offering graduate and undergraduate courses, opened on June 13 for a nine-week session. The participating colleges in the summer school are Morehouse, Spelman, Clark, Morris Brown, and Gammon. Beginning with the summer session of 1949, the university offers the degree of master of science in library service to students enrolled in the School of Library Service.

Under its new program, the School of Library Service will emphasize the contents of books and the basic concepts of knowledge, the field of communication, and the administrative and functional aspects of school, college, and public library service. The preparation of teachers to give instruction in undergraduate courses in library service will also be a part of the new program.

Cecil D. Nelson's oil painting "The Kite-Makers" was winner of the popular award of $100 at the university's eighth annual exhibition of paintings, sculpture, and prints by Negro artists, which closed on May 1. Dr. Mozell C. Hill, chairman of the department of sociology, will carry out during the summer a field investigation, assisted by a graduate student of the department, at Statesboro, Georgia, for the U. S. Department of Health.

Closing concert of the combined musical organizations of the university system was given in the Sisters chapel of Spelman in May.

ARKANSAS A. M. AND N. COLLEGE commencement speaker on May 24

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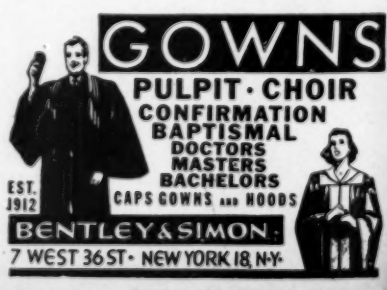

was Honorable Alfred B. Bonds, Jr., commissioner of education for Arkansas. Dr. Benjamin Mays, president of Morehouse, delivered the baccalaureate sermon. The college graduated 160 students.

Two young colored women—Gloria Snodgrass and Virginia Parks—were among eighteen teachers hired by the local school board to teach in the ALLIANCE HIGH SCHOOL of Alliance, Ohio. Miss Snodgrass recently graduated from Wilberforce with majors in English and social science; Miss Parks completed her work at Howard, with a major in social studies. These young women are the first of their race to be employed in the Alliance school system, and the board gave unanimous approval of their applications.

The chief speaker at the eighty-second annual commencement on May 30 at ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE was Dr. Richard G. Stone, president of St. Mary's school and junior college at Raleigh, North Carolina. Baccalaureate speaker on May 29 was the Rev. Shelton Hale Bishop, rector of St. Philip's church, New York City. Fifty-seven graduates received diplomas and degrees.

A pledge to use his influence wherever he could to bolster the cause of education for both groups equally was made by Governor W. Kerr Scott of North Carolina in his address on May 31 to the ninety graduates of BENNETT COLLEGE. The commencement speaker was Chancellor William P. Tolley of Syracuse university; the baccalaureate, Bishop John W. E. Bowen of Atlanta, Georgia.

In recognition of his twenty-three years of service to the college, the board of trustees has granted President David D. Jones a sabbatical leave.

Recruitment is now under way for promising young people for the ENCAMPMENT FOR CITIZENSHIP. Interracial not only in the young people who come to it, but also in its study of democratic problems, the Encampment aims to help prepare young people for responsible, informed leadership and effective citizenship. Henry B. Herman is director and Algernon D. Black chairman of the education committee. Address of the camp is 2 West 64th Street, New York 23, N. Y.

The commencement address at SPELMAN COLLEGE on June 6 was delivered by John Marshall, an associate director of the Rockefeller Foundation. Mr. Marshall has been associated with the Rockefeller Foundation since 1933, first as assistant director of the humanities, and, since 1940, as associate director. Approximately 75 A. B. and B. S. degrees were awarded by President Florence M. Read.

"The Negro on the American Scene," an exhibition of photographs, books, programs, playbills, and news clippings from the Countee Cullen Memorial Collection, were on display during the month of May in the Trevor Arnett library. Arranged by Mrs. Marnesba D. Hill, curator of the Negro collection at Atlanta university, the showing represents the Negro's contribution to literature, art, music, and the theatre.

The Countee Cullen Memorial Collection, originally known as the Harold Jackman Collection, was established at Atlanta university in 1942 by Mr. Jackman, a teacher in the New York public school system.

Thirty-six colored photographic drawings, representing the arts and skills of the early American Negro, were on display in the college library for a limited showing, which began on May 22. They were lent to the college library by the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C., and are from the Index of American Design, executed under the Works Progress Administration.

President Florence M. Read completed a series of addresses in the West in May as one of a team of four speakers to appear on programs of state Baptist conventions in Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Washington at the invitation of the presidents of the state conventions and the board of education of the Northern Baptist Convention.

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One hundred and thirty-one candidates were awarded degrees at the eighty-fourth annual commencement of SHAW UNIVERSITY. Commencement speakers were Dr. C. Sylvester Green, editor of the Durham, N. C., *Morning Herald*, and Rev. J. Pius Barbour of Chester, Pa., who delivered the baccalaureate. Honorary degrees of D.D. were conferred upon Rev. J. Pius Barbour and Rev. Clifton E. Griffin; Rev. William Alfred Fountain was awarded an LL.D.

First summer session at Shaw began June 6, and will extend over a six-week period ending July 11. The second session will run from July 12 to August 16. Annual Ministers Institute was held June 13-17, under the joint sponsorship of the university and the General Baptist State Convention. Running concurrently with the institute was a leadership training conference held annually in cooperation with the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina.

New president of the general alumni association of Shaw is Attorney William C. Raines, class of '39, of New York City, who succeeds the Rev. C. E. Griffin of Norfolk, Virginia.

Seventy-four Shaw seniors did practice teaching during the second semester under the supervision of Dr. Nelson H. Harris in the schools of Raleigh and nearby communities.

THE NEW JERSEY COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, New Brunswick, presented the Heritage Award in June to two Negro students for their contribution in making the "pioneer years of interracial living on campus highly successful ones." The honors were conferred by the Associate Alumnae on Emma Andrews, of Plainfield, and Evelyn Semons, of Somerville.

A British Guiana student, Julius K. M. Richmond of Georgetown, was graduated from the COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTAL AND ORAL SURGERY with the highest scholastic average in his class.

The fifty-fourth annual commencement address on May 29 was delivered at WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE by Senator Harley M. Kilgore. The graduating class of 192 was the largest in the history of the college.

Summer session of the college opened June 13 and will run until August 20. Regular courses are offered for students seeking degrees and for in-service teachers who wish extension of certification. Fourth annual camp training school sponsored by the college extension service was held June 8-10 at States Four-H Camp, Clifftop.

Recent faculty activities included the attendance of Frederick J. Lacy, acting director of trade and technical education, at sessions of the American Industrial Arts Association in St. Louis, Mo., May 12-14; Dr. Harry W. Greene's (director of teacher education) addresses to the National Institute of Science at Florida A. & M. college, April 21-23; and an address by Dr. Herman G. Canady, professor of psychology, before the twenty-fourth annual meeting of the West Virginia Academy of Science.

Eighteenth annual open house of the trade and technical division of the college was held on May 28.

The sixty-ninth annual commencement address at ALABAMA STATE COLLEGE was delivered by Dr. W. R. Banks, principal-emeritus of Prairie View State college, Texas. The baccalaureate sermon was preached by Dr. J. H. Jackson, pastor of the Olivet Baptist church, Chicago, Illinois. Degrees were awarded to 87 graduates.

The sixty-first annual commencement exercises were held at KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE on June 7, with Julius A. Thomas, director of the department of industrial relations of the Urban League, as principal speaker. The baccalaureate was delivered on June 5 by Rev. Herbert King, pastor of Grace Congregational church, New York City.

Dr. John A. Turner, professor and head of department of oral surgery, HOWARD UNIVERSITY, has been certified as a diplomate of the American Board of Oral Surgery. Dr. Turner is a graduate of the District of Columbia public schools and received his B. S. and D. D. S. degrees from Howard university. He holds an M. A. from New York university and a graduate diploma in oral surgery from the Columbia university school of oral surgery.

The thirty-seventh annual commencement address at TENNESSEE A. & I. STATE COLLEGE was delivered by Dr. George F. Zook, president of the American Council on Education. Bishop Robert N. Brooks of the New Orleans district of the Methodist church was the baccalaureate speaker. One hundred and eighty-six candidates received their degrees.

One hundred and thirty-four students were included on the winter-quarter honor roll, according to a report from the registrar's office. First place honors were evenly divided between eight men and women, all of whom boasted a straight "A" average.

Annual conference of the fourth region of the American Teachers Association was held at the college May 13-14. Among the speakers were Dr. Reginald S. Barrett, Fisk; Dr. H. Council Trenholm, executive secretary ATA; Dr. Howard Long, Wilberforce state college; and Dr. Charles Rochelle, regional vice-president ATA.

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Editorials

ADA FISHER WINS

THE University of Oklahoma law school lost and Ada Sipuel Fisher won last month when she was admitted as a student. Perhaps it is more accurate to say the State of Oklahoma lost, for had the question been left to law school officials and the white students Mrs. Fisher would have been in the law school long ago.

It was in 1946 that Mrs. Fisher first applied for admission and was refused. In January, 1948, she won a decision in the United States Supreme Court which said she must be given the same education as other applicants and as soon as others were supplied. Oklahoma officials were stubborn; they set up within one week a separate "Negro" law school, located (of all places) in the state capitol. The library was the law library of the Attorney General's office and the instructors were to come from Oklahoma University, some 200 miles away at Norman. Mrs. Fisher refused to enroll in this makeshift and so did other Negro prospects.

More lawsuits followed and then action by the Oklahoma legislature. That body, to save face, passed a law admitting Negroes to professional and graduate training, but on a segregated basis. The truth of the matter is that there will be little if any segregation. The law will be there, as it is in the case of Arkansas, but, also as in the case of Arkansas, segregation will be such a nuisance and so silly in the light of the sentiment of students, faculty, and officials that no one will attempt to enforce it.

The news is that fifteen colored students are enrolled at the University and other state schools for the summer term. By this time next year Oklahoma will have forgotten to count them, just as most of Arkansas has forgotten that Edith Irby is studying at its state university.

So Ada Fisher and her NAACP attorneys have won the fight they started against Oklahoma, but they have done better than they thought. It was the Supreme Court's decision in the Sipuel case which persuaded Arkansas to open its university, which caused Delaware to open its doors, and which brought the recent announcement from the University of Kentucky that it would admit Negro students. Missouri is teetering on the edge, one house of its legislature having voted overwhelmingly for admission, but the other failing by a few votes. The students who get their educaton in these institutions owe thanks to Mrs. Fisher and the NAACP.

U. S. ACTS AGAINST VIOLENCE

ON June 24, over the objections of Alabama authorities and Alabama congressmen, Attorney General Tom Clark officially announced that the FBI was entering into the reign of terror by masked mobs in the Birmingham area. A white veteran has been flogged. White women have been dragged out, lectured and threatened, and forced to watch the burning of crosses. The police, as is usual in such cases, have done little or nothing and it is even reported that in one case a police officer was in the mob.

The Alabamians are yelling about interference and states rights—the same old stuff. Weeks ago when mobs dynamited Negro homes in the area the best local police could do was to warn the owners to move. With this start the mobs moved in on whites. A reporter for a Birmingham daily was beaten. Same old pattern: Practice on Negroes, pass on to whites. If America does not want mob law for everyone she will have to check mob law against Negroes. If the states will not do it the United States government must do so.

ALL IN STEP EXCEPT THE ARMY

IN response to the announcement of a new policy of no discrimination in the National Military Establishment by Secretary Louis A. Johnson, the Navy and the Air Force submitted plans to carry it out. These were approved by Mr. Johnson. The Air Force promptly proceeded to put its plan into effect and has distributed 66 Negro officers to various bases. Base commanders have proclaimed the policy to all men. The Navy has done likewise, carrying forward a plan which it began in the latter years of the war under the late James V. Forrestal.

But the Army cannot catch step with the times. It has submitted two plans to Secretary Johnson and both have been disapproved on the ground that they are not adequate to carry out the policy. The Army is trying again.

The trouble with the Army is that it is unable to shake off the old tradition that Negroes belong off to themselves with a few Negro officers in the lower ranks; but with whites, regardless of ability, always the best spots and the best breaks in promotions. The feeling also persists that certain areas are "white men's jobs." And, finally, there is the stubborn conviction that Negroes, no matter what their rank or ability, must not command whites. This latter idea is the chief devil, for it has choked off Negro promotions, controlled assignments, and influenced enlistment policies.

This problem is one that faces Gordon Gray, the new Secretary of the Army, who succeeds his fellow North Carolinian Kenneth Royall. The latter frankly believed in segregation. It remains to be seen whether Gray, a younger man, is cut from the same cloth.

AS WE LOOK TO THE JAPANESE

A RECENT meeting of a women's group in Tokyo was reported in an article by Nora Waln in *The Saturday Evening Post* in which some members viewed with skepticism a paper read by one of them praising the United States for setting up democracy in Japan. Said one woman:

"How can we trust those who proclaim in our constitution ideas which they do not practice in their own land? In the United States there is racial discrimination against the Negro, for one thing, and against our entry on a quota such as others have."

Said another:

"I cannot applaud a speech which asks allegiance to the United States while they have a color line. That makes all words about equality a hypocrisy. We had three pamphlets left at our door this morning giving reports about how Negroes, Jews, and Japanese have been treated in the United States."

There you have it.

The Forrestal Record

By Ernest E. Johnson

How "this pugnacious little man let the power of democracy seep into that staid organization" that is the United States Navy

THAT the serious student of research on the tomorrows to come may not have too much difficulty in appraising a facet of James V. Forrestal, this record is being written.

The late lamented Secretary of Defense and former war-time Secretary of the Navy ended his life tragically in the early morning hours of May 22, 1949. The periodicals of our time will undoubtedly fully record the worth of the man and the circumstances which led to his untimely death. It is my purpose here to throw light upon the influence which he exerted to transform the United States Navy from a prejudice-ridden arm of our national defense organization into a reasonable facsimile of a democratic institution established for the preservation of similar ideals.

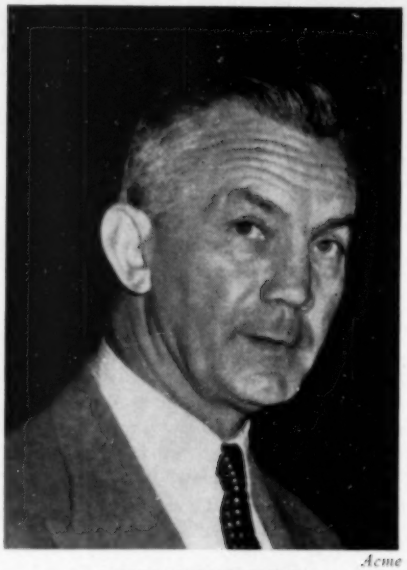
It was under this pugnacious little man that the light and power of democracy were permitted to seep into that staid organization following the death of Colonel Frank Knox in May, 1944. It was during his period of service that we saw Negroes:

1. Accepted for general service through a greater relaxation of the restrictions which had barred them from everything else but the steward's branch as mess attendants.
2. Trained in the specialties and assigned to duty, both on land and at sea, in every type of vessel and without discrimination as to berthing, mess, duty or recreation.
3. Accepted in the tradition-bound Marine Corps.
4. Trained and progressed through the ranks of line and staff officers.
5. Trained for the aviation service.
6. Enrolled as students at the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.
7. Accepted in the WAVES and SPARS, women's auxiliaries.

How, when, and why he did these things may not have to be left to guesswork since, for unlike the situation which prevailed during World War I, adequate sources of information are available to establish this picture. Among these are the excellent thesis written by Lieutenant Dennis D. Nelson, USNR, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the master's degree at Howard University; the files of the U. S. Navy itself; the Negro Press, watchdog of Negro rights; and finally, the files and personal recollection of Lester B. Granger, the executive secretary of the National Urban League who worked tirelessly with the man toward the achievement of one of his goals.

The papers of this period will say that James Forrestal came of ordinary American parentage with no particular claims of wealth or social position. His progress through school and university was registered only by dint of sacrifice and hard work. His rise to influential position, first in the world of finance and in later years in government, are attributable almost solely to the Forrestal will.

He is not known to have harbored any special ambition for public office. Public service—yes. In the spring of 1948 Forrestal's name was being mentioned as a likely candidate for governor of the State of New York, and again as President Truman's running mate. The two men were enroute to the White House to meet the President when Forrestal told Granger it was untrue that he nurtured any further ambition in government. He considered it reprehensible that the office he filled should be allowed to enter politics. Mr. Truman, it is understood, agreed with his Secretary of Defense and did not expect him to campaign that year.



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JAMES V. FORRESTAL (1892-1949)

Forrestal Meets Granger

For a man with practically no previous personal contact or experience with Negroes, it seemed unusual that Forrestal should have undertaken the task, against great odds, of seeking a fair "shake" for them in the Navy. He admitted candidly but one vivid recollection of a Negro of his acquaintance, but that single one was ultimately to have a terrific impact upon Forrestal and the Navy.

Being one of those eager-beaver newspaper correspondents who covered wartime Washington, I talked with the Secretary for forty-five minutes one day

PA

LESTER B. GRANGER

in February, 1945. He had invited me in to see him because, so I thought, he preferred to answer privately my question about the appointment of a Negro civilian aide rather than doing it at one of his weekly press conferences which I attended like clockwork. Back of all of this too was the general belief that if the Secretary of the Navy had some kind of adviser, an acceleration in the "program" for utilization and a "break" for Negroes might be had. The conversation had hardly progressed when he recalled thoughtfully:

"There used to be a fellow named Granger who I knew at Dartmouth. Wonder whatever became of him. He was an awfully nice chap, and a much better student than I was."

It was not likely that I would go wrong on a Granger, although my intention was not to boost anyone's campaign, so I said: "You probably mean Lester Granger. Why' he's very active in New York in the cause of interracial betterment, and doing a good job. Lots of experience."

"Think we can get him down here for a conference?" he asked.

"Certainly," and in a moment's time he was dictating a letter to Granger in which he said:

"I have been talking with Mr. Johnson of the Associated Negro Press about certain policy matters in the Navy and out of that conversation came the thought that possibly you might be willing to come down and talk with me about them, and that you might even be willing to give us some of your time for a period."

As matters developed, however, Forrestal's classmate was W. Randolph Granger, an older brother of Lester's, but both brothers had attended Dartmouth. Anyhow, the Secretary was ready to hitch his problem to a Granger, no matter the first name.

Granger met Forrestal for the first time in Washington in early March. The former was asked to draft a memorandum explaining how special advisory service might be useful in helping the Navy to deal with its problem. It was intended to use this memorandum to win over the cooperation of the Navy brass hats in a plan which would involve Granger's assistance. The Urban League executive returned to New York, checked his information on the Negro in the Navy, consulted his executive board, and finally sent Forrestal a memorandum on March 19 which contained this introduction:

Special advisory services for the Secretary of the Navy would be helpful in three general problem areas. The first involves the integration of Negroes in all branches of Navy service; the second involves the attitude of the Negro public toward the status of Negroes in Navy service, and toward what is believed to be the Navy's racial policy; the third involves the Navy Department's relations with the Negro press—an agency which is a powerful determinant in building favorable or unfavorable Negro public opinion.

That was the beginning of the Forrestal-Granger relationship, one that in the years it endured undoubtedly proved profitable to the pride of the Navy, to the dignity of Negroes—and to the honor of our country. To recognize the length of the road which had to be travelled one need only recall the statement in 1940 of Colonel Knox, the Secretary of the Navy, when he boldly announced that Negroes would be restricted to the mess branch. Although under the pressure of war some slight yielding did take place, Colonel Knox was still an adamant man when in November, 1943, he turned to me at a press conference and said angrily:

"You know exactly what we are trying to do. We are trying to avoid mixing crews on ships. That puts a limitation on where we can employ Negro seamen."

Yet at the time of this statement the Navy had, in spite of itself, groped its way to the preparation of its first important discussion of Negroes in the Navy. It was a little booklet titled "Guide to Command of Negro Naval Personnel," and was distributed among commanders of Negro personnel. Moreover, there was certain other evidence of a relaxation in Navy practice but it had no particular benefit of policy support or organized approach.

Lieutenant Nelson's monograph, titled "The Integration of the Negro Into the United States Navy 1776-1947," which was endorsed and printed by the Navy, contains copies of actual memoranda, circular letters, and other instruction forms dealing with Navy policy formation and practice. Noticeable is a distinct change of thinking pattern and operational method, as they existed under Knox and Forrestal, for handling the problem. Preceding the Forrestal-Granger tie-up there is evidence which shows clearly that Forrestal had a real desire to correct the situation.

Knox died on May 10, 1944. His successor's first word on the subject of Negro servicemen came in the form of a circular letter just thirty days later, from which this excerpt is taken:

New Policy

This [Personnel] Bureau does not consider practical the establishment of separate facilities and quotas for those Negroes who qualify for advanced training under existing regulations and directives.

No discrimination as to race should be allowed to influence the nomination of candidates for advanced school training. When Negro personnel are qualified under existing regulations and directives, they will be given the same consideration as white personnel, and will be assigned to schools in the same manner and on the same basis.

Forrestal believed, and rightly per-

FORRESTAL CONGRATULATES *Lester B. Granger, executive secretary of the National Urban League, after presenting him with the President's Medal for Merit. Granger was honored for service as a special adviser to Forrestal on interracial relations in the Navy.*

Acme

haps, that no edict alone would work unless the men who must be relied upon to execute it were at least disposed to do so. In this case it was the Navy brass, traditionally obstreperous in the matter.

Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King, then Chief of Naval Operations, was the first to be consulted and his answer was this: "The question is whether this is a democratic country. If it is, we ought to have a democratic Navy, and if you want to try the [Granger] program, I will back you up."

Rear Admiral Randall Jacobs, Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, had doubts that the idea was practical. In fact he was oftentimes characterized as the stumbling block. Later Admiral Jacobs was to see the matter differently and to find himself working cooperatively for the fulfillment of the Secretary's wishes. The conversion of other top echelon people went on apace.

In the early summer of 1945 Granger visited a number of domestic naval bases, and in the fall went on a thirty-one day junket to the Pacific command. He observed and talked with Navy personnel, from top to bottom. Enroute home he handed Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz a report on his observations in the command, along with certain recommendations. One of these involved the assignment of Negroes to Shore Patrol duty at the Pearl Harbor base, a thing that just "couldn't be done without trouble." It was done, and without trouble. In fact, Nimitz followed through on each of the Granger recommendations.

When the special adviser arrived in Washington to report, Forrestal informed him that Admiral Nimitz had already communicated with the Department and had fully endorsed the plan towards integration. The Secretary's own reaction was one of satisfaction, first at the goodwill which had been engendered by his emissary, and second, at the manner in which the chips were beginning to fall into place. Both men felt that genuine momentum was being gained at last, and gradually changes began to take place.

Shortly after V-J Day, while the Navy was still near peak, there were 165,000 Negro enlisted men, 52 commissioned officers, 70 WAVES and officers, and 4 nurses in the U. S. Navy; 16,944 enlisted men in the Marine Corps, and 3,627 enlisted men, 968 warrant and petty officers, 4 commissioned officers and 5 SPARS (enlisted personnel) in the U. S. Coast Guard. More than 135,000 of this personnel were serving overseas at the time.

If this could be achieved in war time, Forrestal reasoned, the certainty was that much more could be achieved under peace time conditions, and so the work continued on this theory. But the clamor among Negroes and liberals for faster integration in the armed services never ceased, and although the Navy in a comparatively short time had risen head and shoulders above the Army and the component Air Force, it nevertheless felt the sting of this pressure. No doubt it served also as a constant reminder against relenting, now that the job had been started.

In January, 1947, Congress had before it HR 279, a bill "to prohibit race segregation in the Armed Forces of the United States" after the termination of hostilities. Three branches of service were asked to comment upon the legislation. The reply of the Army was vigorous opposition to the bill. The forthright statement of the Navy was that it "interposes no objections to the enactment of the Bill." And for the Coast Guard, it was said that "the Treasury Department has no objection."

Unification came in the same year and Forrestal, as the first Secretary of Defense, found the demands of office upon him staggering. The Negro public after all, it seems, *was* aware that the Navy had made unusual strides in the desired direction. They were equally conscious that the other branches were dragging their feet outrageously. Perhaps the elevation of Forrestal to a position of dominance over all three branches would soon see a uniform personnel policy at the Navy level, so it was thought.

Unification Bill

The unification bill did not give the Secretary of Defense the authority to do many things which the public in general, and Negroes and their friends in particular, thought it did. One of these things was that of establishing personnel policies in the various services, or to tell them where to "head in" on the matter of integration—or segregation, depending upon your degree of optimism. Nor was Forrestal one to exert authority which he did not have.

Still working together, Forrestal discussed with Granger sometime in February, 1948, the idea of inviting a cross-section of Negro opinion to come to Washington to discuss the whole question of segregation with himself and the heads of the services. Granger had warned the Secretary that it would be impossible to bring in a group of representative people who would not be inclined to view the entire setup critically. But Forrestal would not be deterred.

Twenty-six persons participated in the "National Defense Conference on Negro Affairs" on April 26. They were convening soon after President Truman and the Senate Armed Services Committee had received a personal report from A. Philip Randolph to the effect that "Negroes are in no mood to shoulder a gun for democracy abroad so long as they are denied democracy here at home." Following the meeting they issued this statement:

"The group agreed that no one wanted to continue in an advisory capacity on the basis of continued segregation in the armed services. Our group is concerned with elimination of segregation, not with its perpetuation. We are convinced that segregation is a form of discrimination."

Evidently Forrestal was not taken aback too much because his comment later was "This is darn good!" He had sat through part of the all-day session and had known just about what to expect. And yet, those who listened to him set the stage and later enlarge upon his own attitude recognized the man's own sincerity. He had said, among other things:

> The problem we have is not one that's limited to the Negro people; it's a national problem. I don't regard it as simply a racial problem. It's a problem that our country has to face and will have to face continuously in terms of education of what Lester and I have always agreed will have to come from the heart and the growing tolerance among the people in the broadest sense of the word on both sides. . . .
>
> I am not begging any of you for questions because I recognize the questions that you raised are serious questions. All I can say is that, as far as I am concerned, I think you have an earnest of my own attitude, and I share the same goals that you speak of. The rate at which we get to that goal, I believe, will be enhanced if it is not done with too great violence and with persuasion to the extent that [it] is typical of what we face all through the armed services.

Forrestal resigned, effective as of March 31, 1949, and Louis A. Johnson was named as his successor. On April 6 Secretary Johnson signed an order which was finally released on April 21. Hitting the front pages all over the country and garnering for the new Secretary considerable acclaim from Negroes and liberals, the directive called upon each of the three branches to report to him in ten days the extent of progress being made by them toward fulfillment of the President's executive order requiring elimination of segregation.

Prepared by Predecessor

The record should show that this order, although signed and issued by Johnson, was actually prepared at the request of his predecessor. The delay in releasing it was due to a desire to

(Continued on page 221)

Chesnutt as a Southern Town Remembers Him

By John W. Parker

Intimate facts and memories of a famous novelist of yesterday as related by his close friends and relatives

IT is now sixty-five years since Charles W. Chesnutt, weary of the restrictions imposed by a southern bi-racial set up, pulled up stakes, and after a short sojourn in New York City, returned to his birthplace, Cleveland, Ohio. As a boy of eight, he had come from Cleveland to Fayetteville, North Carolina, with his southern-born parents. His father, Andrew Jackson Chesnutt, was a substantial farmer and drayman, a member of the Cross Creek School Board, and one of the five Negroes who purchased jointly a lot on which was constructed the Howard School building. The State Normal School, elaborated in 1939 into the Fayetteville State Teachers College, was an outgrowth of the Howard School, now regarded as the "beginning" of public education for both white and Negro children in North Carolina. With the pioneering spirit of Andrew Jackson Chesnutt in public education in North Carolina, it is small wonder that his children should have figured prominently in its development in Cumberland county and throughout the state.

The eldest of thirteen children, Charles W. Chesnutt spent his later boyhood years growing familiar with the country described in his novels and stories. The earliest memories of young Chesnutt are that he was an insatiate reader. His former student, Mrs. Emma J. Council, tells how Chesnutt used to peddle thimbles, needles, and thread in the neighborhood. "He would sit down and display his wares," she said, "and while the customer made his selection, Chesnutt would frequently become completely absorbed in any book within his reach." At school Chesnutt is remembered as a precocious youth whose resourcefulness and intellectual curiosity were commensurate with his ability. However, Chesnutt's formal education did not extend beyond the grammar grades, with some study of the higher branches, yet by private study and wide reading he gained a knowledge of the classics, of French and German, and, as his stories disclose, of pure English and general literature. The fact, however, that the boy was exceptional accounts in part for his exceptional opportunities. A member of the Fayetteville school board, the Englishman, Dr. Edward Lilly, came to know and to appreciate Chesnutt's ability and invited the youth to make complete use of his library, reputed to be the best in the community. Chesnutt did. Speaking of young Chesnutt's ability, his teacher, Cicero Harris, once remarked, "That boy can learn anything."

CHARLES WADDELL CHESNUTT
(1858-1932)

When but a boy of fourteen, Chesnutt became a teacher-pupil in the Howard School, then under the direction of Robert Harris, and at fifteen he shouldered the responsibility of a full-fledged teacher in Charlotte, North Carolina. Upon the death of Mr. Harris in 1870, Chesnutt was advanced to the principalship of the school (by that time known as the State Normal School), a position which he resigned three years later to enter upon the work by which he was later to be distinguished. That is law and creative literature. Meanwhile, romance overcame the youthful principal and soon he was married to a Miss Susie Perry, one of Fayetteville's young women of ability and charm. Of their four children, three were born in Fayetteville and the fourth in Cleveland.

New Activities

Chesnutt's vigorous mind continually sought new avenues of activity and shortly the man found himself absorbed in the study of shorthand, which, although of limited immediate use, was later to stand him in good stead as court reporter and journalist in New York City and in Cleveland. In the absence of a teacher of shorthand Chesnutt acquired the materials he needed and proceeded to teach himself. "When Chesnutt got interested in a subject," commented his sister Sarah Chesnutt, "he simply secured some books and went to work." On Sundays and during the week, as occa-

sion warranted, Chesnutt would be found at the historic Evans Metropolitan Church in Fayetteville where his father was secretary-treasurer and young Chesnutt was superintendent of the Sunday school for many years.

Fayetteville's veteran teacher, Mrs. Emma J. Council, who studied under Chesnutt and who was a teacher in the Fayetteville public schools for more than a half century speaks with a deep sense of appreciation regarding her former teacher:

> Well do I remember Charles W. Chesnutt, as one of the most highly-respected men in the city and one who, in whatever he did, reflected the culture and the dignity of a gentleman. About him was nothing strained or artificial; nothing of that insincerity that might easily have minimized his usefulness and lessened his understanding of the masses of Negro people.
>
> As a teacher, I count him among the best, for although he would frequently awe us with his brilliance, he was always an inspiration, always an example of what he taught, and his students had a way of trying to imitate him in whatever they attempted. One way or another you got the idea that Chesnutt was interested in you as a person as well as a student.
>
> A familiar sight on Sundays was to see Mr. Chesnutt, one of the children in his arms, on the way to church. As the years have passed, Chesnutt has never come to the city that he did not stop in to see me.

Moreover, eighty-four-year old Charles M. Williams, long-time teacher in the Fayetteville schools, recalls that his teacher "was a quiet and reserved man who was never harsh or discourteous, and who never lost the respect of a single one of his students. He had special talent for music and for mathematics. Once he labeled me as the laziest boy he had ever seen when for a week I came to class without having done the arithmetic problems assigned."

An historic spot which greatly enhances the memory of Charles W. Chesnutt is located on the corner of Person and "C" Streets, four blocks from the heart of the city. It is here that the house behind the cedars (inspiration for his initial novel of the same name) stood until a year ago when it was pulled down for commercial reasons. The property on which the house once stood is near that left by Chesnutt's father and was for many years owned by an aunt of Chesnutt whose heirs sold it to Robert Buckingham, prominent business man. But Buckingham's interests in the property were primarily commercial and before long he had erected thereon a number of dwelling-houses, many of which still stand. Today the spot which once marked the *House Behind the Cedars* is the home of a prosperous one hundred thousand-dollar busineses concern, the Carr Motor Company, dealers in Kaiser-Fraser cars. A. B. Carr is the establishment's owner and manager. Interestingly enough, the literary connotation of the spot remains a secret to most passers-by. They sense none of the color and romance that just yesterday attached to the scene. Even the people of the neighborhood stare and talk vaguely about this once-famous gable-roofed, frame cottage set down in a profusion of flowers and shrubs with numerous forked cedars on either side of a winding walk that led to Person Street. But the house is gone and the cedars are gone too; only a memory of them remains, a pathetic memory somewhat reminiscent of that expressed in Goldsmith's "The Deserted Village."

Bill Belche

THE ANN CHESNUTT WADDELL HOME *on Gillespie Street in Fayetteville, N. C., where Sarah Chesnutt and Ann Chesnutt Waddell live.*

Deserts South

Despite the esteem in which he was held and the ever-widening stream of his influence, Chesnutt, as a young man of twenty-three, saw that his talents could not be brought to full fruition in the South. Apart from the restrictions imposed by the mores, his home town, more or less symbolic of the South as a whole, lacked museums and libraries and other opportunities for the broadening of one's social vision. And there was the delicate but usually tragic problem of the color line for this man sometimes labeled a "voluntary" Negro. When it was known that Chesnutt would set out for New York City to gain a fresh start, Albert Slocum, a wealthy white hardware and turpentine merchant of Fayetteville, feeling that Chesnutt might need assistance before he found work, gave him an order on his New York bank. Chesnutt, however, never made use of the offer, for once in New York City he found immediate employment as reporter for a Wall Street news agency. At the end of six months he returned to the congenial atmosphere of Cleveland to enter upon his most productive years as a lawyer and a man of letters. Here he studied law in the office of Judge Samuel E. Williamson who subsequently became general counsel for the New York Central Railroad. During this period of study, Chesnutt wrote in a desultory manner for various magazines and newspaper syndicates, but most of his time was given to court reporting, a profession at the head of which he stood for many years. Gradually, however, the impulse for creative writing which Chesnutt had harbored from a very early age so asserted itself that he deserted the law and gave himself over wholly to literary pursuits.

It is not unnatural that "Uncle Peter's House," Chesnutt's first story to see publication (1885), was based upon scenes from across the Cape Fear River where his father owned considerable property. Other stories appeared in *Puck, Tid-Bits, Two Tales, The Independent, The Overland Monthly, The Atlantic Monthly,* and other magazines. The author's first book was a collection of his stories and ap-

(Continued on page 221)

Haiti on the Wings of Progress

By Joseph D. Charles

This inventory of Haitian progress lists some of the achievements which visitors to the Grand International Exposition scheduled for December in Port-au-Prince might be expected to see

WHEN a house is clean, says an old adage, its inhabitants are healthy. These words could allude, apart from their import for Haiti, to the Great House of the World where, unfortunately, certain leaders have misunderstood the responsibilities imposed upon them.

Were countries and governments (ignoring seas and frontiers) to give up their sacrifices to grasping and paralyzing ideologies, were they to canalize their efforts into projects for the furtherance of peace, well-being, progress, and civilization the time would perforce come when fists would cease to be raised in symbolic gestures of violence. There would then be an interchange of complete confidence in the full spirit of reciprocity. Then the house of the world would be clean and its inhabitants would lead a wholesome life.

Constructive, tangible works transcend words and slogans. What men must do is to act.

The present government of the little Republic of Haiti, insofar as its means will permit, can take pride in the fact (if not for setting the example) that it at least has willingly followed the example of its Chief Executive in his agreement with all those who would contribute to progress and the development of civilization. Every ministerial department and branch of the public administration is in hearty accord with the program worked out by the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Dumarsais Estime. They put forth their best efforts for the realization of the well-being of the community in order to justify in the eyes of the world the rightful place which Haiti will occupy on the scrolls of progress in her furtherance of civilization.

It is no secret that the Haitian budget is too small to allow the country to attain its high aspirations. But the will of the Chief Executive, and of every Haitian, supplies the needed wherewithal for those enterprises that would further the maximum development of the resources of the country. So well have they worked, despite handicaps, that Haiti is at the present moment an immense workshop, as is evidenced by the projects in progress throughout the length and breadth of the country. The results of these beneficent innovations are being felt everywhere.

The thing closest to the heart of President Estime upon his advent to power was to raise the Haitian standard of living. He knew that bettering the standard of living had first to begin with the soil. Immediately the signal was given. There was intensification in the production of food products by irrigation and drainage. In the South, the plains of Chantal, Cavaillon, Petit Goave, Miragoane, totalling many thousands of acres, have benefited from this water distributed according to the needs of the earth and the produce developed on a particular terrain.

Agricultural activities in the North are no less extensive. The extensive irrigation works in Maribarou and at St. Raphael are an augury of what the production of consumer goods for local consumption will be for that part of the country. Production, constant production, is the slogan. Not one square acre of soil must go unutilized That, apparently, is the aim of the Ministry of Agriculture. One of the

HAITIAN GIRLS *washing their vegetables at the town pump in preparation for sale at the public market.*

Allan Gould

great grain districts of Haiti, the Artibonite Valley, which has tremendous potentialities for cereal production, will benefit by a six-million-dollar credit, four million of which will be furnished by the Export-Import Bank.

Plans are being made at the same time for two new sugar factories, both in the South and the North, which will utilize the entire cane production of the Artibonite and its fertile region. In the Central Plateau, on the other hand, ceaseless efforts are being made toward the improvement of the livestock which is so integral a part of agriculture.

In order to carry out these projects, the Ministry of Agriculture has received assurance of the aid of technicians from the Ministry of Public Works. These technicians, while working with the great irrigation projects just cited, will also work on the building of new roads and highways. For one of President Estime's cherished dreams is to facilitate as much as possible the highest maximum of communication between the different sections of the country. With this goal in mind the government is looking forward to negotiating a contract with a foreign company for the construction of interregional highways to facilitate internal commerce by the opening up of new markets for produce. The market of Port-de-Paix in the northwest is tangible evidence of future improvements of this type.

Along with the advances of the Department of Public Works is that of the Department of Urban Works which is now in the process of improving the environs of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince. In addition to its alluring tropical beauty, its unsurpassed promenades, and its picturesque landscape, Port-au-Prince will offer those tourists who have chosen the Grand International Exposition of December, 1949, as the first leg in their travels the comfort of large and well-appointed hotels. Among them is the Hotel Roosevelt as well as the magnificent palace now being built under the direction of the engineer Moody.

Allan Gould

HAITI'S MARKETS *are run by these turbaned,* caraco-*clad, barefoot women who bring in their fruits and vegetables from the surrounding areas.*

PEASANTS *gathering for an agricultural meeting.*

Allan Gould

Tourist Bureau

President Estime is fully cognizant of the many advantages which his country can reap from its natural attractions.

He has therefore created a Tourist Bureau. And one of its first measures was the abolition of passports for Canadian and American tourists. The head of this important bureau is doing everything possible to make sure that the tourist, no matter from whence he comes, will get complete satisfaction of his tastes and wishes while in Haiti. And to make him aware that Haiti is willing to please the government has set up a large publicity section in the Peter Hilton Agency in New York City which issues intelligent publicity tailored for foreigners who are seeking new and colorful impressions. This isle of verdure, which Columbus so aptly named "A Marvel," completely overwhelmed Mary Margaret McBride, Allan Gould, and Don Cooper, who recently visited the country as special guests of the Haitian government. They returned to the States enchanted by the beauties of Haiti and the cordial welcome they had received at the hands of the Haitian people.

When the house is clean, the inhabitants are well—both physically and morally. At no previous period in Haitian history has the Ministry of National Education or the Ministry of Public Health been so concerned with public education. New schools have been built: a normal school, new *lycées,* one at Petit Goave; and another, the Toussaint Louverture, at Port-au-Prince. For two years now the faculty of medicine has been enjoying the benefits of the expert knowledge of American and French professors who were engaged under special government contract.

In the Department of Rural Education, a subdivision of the Ministry of National Education, we may note the experiences of Martial of UNESCO. Here the results will serve as a barometer gauging the results of efforts in every rural section where the Department of National Education will attempt to light the lamp of knowledge.

National Health

Ever solicitous of the physical health of the people, the government is also planning the erection of new hospitals in various parts of the country. In outlying regions where malaria is rampant, sanative measures carried out by the National Hygiene Service, with the help of American physicians, have considerably reduced the number of victims of this disease. Scientifically developed hygiene now reaches all strata of the Haitian population and protects it from sickness. And tremendous orders of medical supplies have been placed in the United States as a step toward the attainment of this goal.

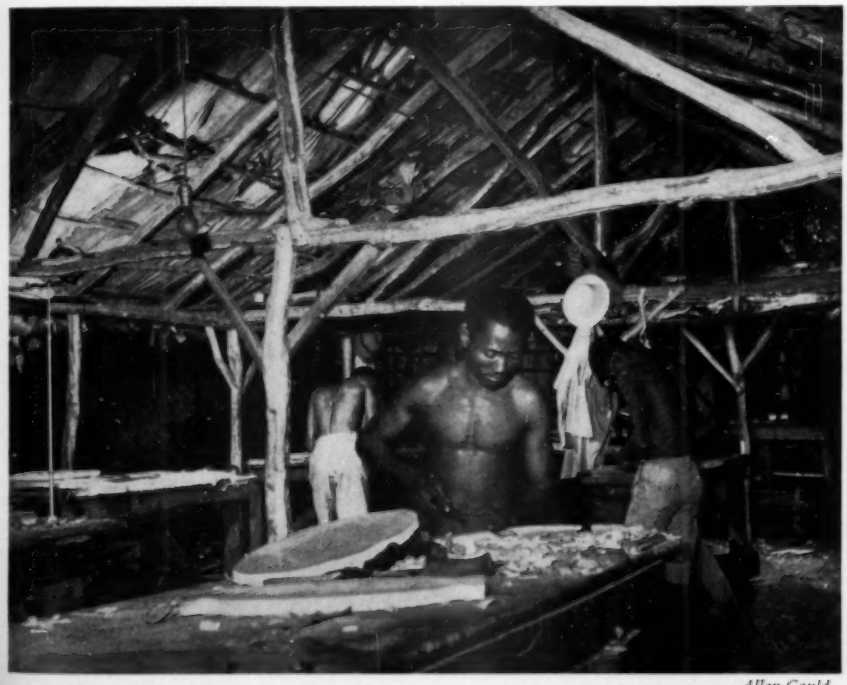
In our enumeration of the achievements of the present Haitian government, we should perhaps begin by noting the growth of the already existing cordial relations existing between Haiti and foreign countries. In fact, Haiti has established numerous diplomatic and cosnular posts throughout Europe and the United States. The policy of peace now in full bloom in this hemisphere finds its perfect echo in the peace-policy of President Estime.

A detailed enumeration of the achievements of Estime's government would be too long. But let us not overlook that miracle of will power—the creation of the modern village of Belladère. "Miracle of stone," as they call it in Haiti; a "Miracle of patriotism." Let us mention, too, the electrification of cities like Port-de-Paix, Petit Goave, Belladère, Croix des Bouquets and many other towns such as Arcahaie, Léogane, Ouanaminthe, which are soon to have their electrical power plants.

We do not feel it necessary to dwell upon that previously mentioned big event, the Grand International Exposition scheduled for December, 1949, to which the peoples of the world have been invited. In visiting the exposition they will have an opportunity not only of getting some knowledge of the natural possibilities of Haiti, but they will also be able to draw up a balance sheet of the deeds that can be accomplished by intelligence and patriotism in the short space of three years.

The Grand International Exposition will be a sort of "national inventory" which will fix in the minds of all not only the accomplishments of the Haitian government, but the norms of Haitian life brought to its apex by the indefatigable activities of one man in order that his people might occupy an honored position among those peoples of the world who are striving for the advancement of civilization.

(Translated from the French by Adèle Premice)



Allan Gould

HAITI PRODUCES *many mahogany products in the form of salad bowls, trays, and other objects. These men are working in a mahogany shop at Port-au-Prince.*

Haiti and Pan-Americanism

The Haitians were practicing Pan-Americanism before it was even born—by that I mean to say, before its official birth as a doctrine of continental solidarity. In establishing themselves as an independent state, Haitians did not wish to keep either the name *Hispaniola,* which reminded them of the horrors of Spanish colonization; or that of *Saint-Domingue,* which reminded them of the degradation of slavery. As mark of their ernest desire to make of their country a real *American state,* they went back to the Amerindian name of *Haiti* which the first inhabitants, the Arawaks, had bestowed upon the land.

Haiti has furnished ample proof of its continental solidarity, which constitutes the very essence of Pan-Americanism, throughout her history. We never tire of repeating this, since it is so persistently ignored or even denied. Our struggle for independence was in itself Pan-Americanism in action. Did it not directly influence the development of the power of the United States? The great American historian Henry Adams, in his *Life of Jefferson,* has conclusively demonstrated that Haitians, in destroying the expeditionary army of Captain-General Leclerc destroyed at the same time the Napoleonic dream of a great French empire in the Mississippi Valley. That is why Bonaparte decided to sell prosperous Louisiana and its rich environs to the United States for the ridiculous sum of 18 million dollars. It would one day be simple justice if Americans, as a sign of gratitude, raised a monument to Toussaint-Louverture in a Washington square. . . .

Dantes Bellegarde—
HAITI ET SES PROBLEMES

Félix Eboué and Victor Schoelcher Now Rest in the Panthéon

On May 20, 1949, the remains of two great Frenchmen: Félix Eboué, Negro governor of French Equatorial Africa, who rallied that vast strategic territory to the Allied and Free French cause during the war, and Victor Schoelcher, author of the Laws of 1848 abolishing slavery in the French colonies, were transferred to the Panthéon in a symbolic dual ceremony

ON May 19 the remains of Eboué and Schoelcher were borne down the Champs-Elyssées, through the Arc de Triomphe, to the Luxembourg Palace where government officials paid them homage. On the morning of the twentieth, forty students from the École de la France d'Outre-Mer carried the bier of Félix Eboué, and forty colored soldiers that of Schoelcher, to the Panthéon atop the hill of Sainte-Genevieve. Then in the presence of President Vincent Auriol, and of distinguished military and diplomatic officials, Paul Coste-Floret, French Minister of France Overseas paid them reverential respect in the following words:

> Today, a grateful country receives into the company of her most glorious sons two precursors of the French Union: Victor Schoelcher, who laid the bases of this Union by devoting his life to the emancipation of the slaves and who realized his great objective in a body of concrete laws; and Félix Eboué, pure-hearted Negro Frenchman, who built a solid foundation for the Union by rallying his brothers of the Negro race to fight for the liberation of the enslaved motherland.

Below we present a brief biography of these two key figures in the development of French democracy.

FÉLIX EBOUÉ (1884-1944)

Félix Eboué was born in 1884 at Cayenne, French Guiana. He attended the Bordeaux Lycée, took a law degree at the University of Paris, and studied at the École Coloniale. A brilliant student and a fine athlete, he was extraordinarily popular with his fellow students because of his warm yet powerful personality. As soon as he graduated from the École Coloniale, he went to Ubangi in French Equatorial Africa as assistant administrator and served there for twenty-three years. His principal concern was not his own personal advancement, but the emancipation of his people in Africa. He travelled into the veld and into the tiny hamlets and villages under his administration, learning to know intimately the thoughts and feelings of the native populations. He became proficient in the Ubangi languages and wrote a grammar which is considered the authoritative work in the field. With the aid of his wife, an accomplished musician, he worked out the musical key to the tom-tom and whistle languages of the Congo. He wrote valuable ethnographic reports, introduced cotton cultivation into parts of Ubangi and was elected to several French learned societies because of his profound understanding of African culture.

He rapidly passed through all the grades of the colonial administration, giving distinguished service in every post he held. In the 1930's, he was secretary-general and acting governor of Martinique, then acting governor of the French Sudan. He was made governor of Guadeloupe in 1936 and governor of the Chad, French Equatorial Africa, in 1938.

With the signing of the armistice between France and Germany in June, 1940, Félix Eboué's position as governor of the Chad became of primary strategic importance. The Chad, with its capital, Fort-Lamy, was the key to the Sudan, to South Africa, and the Belgian Congo. If it fell to the Vichy regime, Hitler and Mussolini might attack Egypt from the rear. If it stood with the Allies, thousands of planes could bring in supplies to the British in Egypt. Fort-Lamy was also a great military center for French African troops. "With these facts clearly in mind," says Leland Stowe, "Dakar informer Governor Eboué that emissaries from Vichy were en route to Fort-Lamy, and ordered him to declare his adherence to the Vichy capitulation at once. . . . Immediately he sent back word . . . that no emissaries of the traitorous Vichy regime would be received by him, that none of them would be allowed inside Chad Province, and that any or all who set foot within his province would be arrested on the spot for treachery."

Resisted Vichy

On August 26, 1940, despite the fact that three of his four children were in occupied France, two of his sons prisoners of war of the Germans, Governor Eboué issued an historic proclamation to the effect that "the Governor of the Chad and the Military Commander of the territory, convinced that the restoration of the greatness and independence of the French demands that France Overseas continue to fight on the side of Great Britain . . . proclaim the union of the territory and of their troops . . . with the Free French Forces of General de Gaulle." This was the first uprising for freedom anywhere in the French colonies. The leadership of the fearless Negro governor inspired all the colonies of French Equatorial Africa to declare their loyalty to the Republic.

In October, 1940, Eboué was appointed one of the nine members of General de Gaulle's Council of De

French Embassy Information Division

FELIX EBOUE (1884-1944)

fense of the French Empire, and a month later governor-general of all French Equatorial Africa. He played a leading role in the Brazzaville Conference of Colonial Administrators which laid the foundations of the French Union of the present day. "If we wish to build solidly, if we wish to work with true wisdom," he said, "it is essential to determine and follow a sound policy, taking into account the needs of the masses, their degree of development, the form of their culture, the material and spiritual security which we must provide them. . . . There must be programs which are adapted to the different environments in which they are to be applied."

As governor of French Equatorial Africa, Eboué worked indefatigably to reform the entire administrative and economic regime of the 900,000 square miles entrusted to him. The three principles underlying his policies were that (1) colonial administration must be drastically decentralized so as to give ever greater authority and responsibility to the native local bodies; that (2) far-reaching economic reforms must raise the living standards of the entire population, not only of a favored elite; and that (3) the cultural, tribal, and familial patterns of African life must be protected rather than destroyed by the modernization and industrialization of the African economy. Under his progressive administration, agricultural production increased, individual farm ownership was promoted, mechanizing building methods were introduced, sanitary and educational services were improved, head-carrying and other forms of porterage were abolished and the natives were given a far greater part in the management of their own affairs.

In March, 1944, worn out and ill, Eboué retired from his post and went to Cairo to try to regain his health. He died in the Egyptian capital on May 17, 1944.

Maran's Encomium

Upon the occasion of the internment of the great governor's remains in the Panthéon, René Maran, distinguished Negro writer, who was a schoolmate of Eboué's at the Bordeaux Lycée and who, like Eboué, was a native of the West Indies, and had served as a colonial administrator in Africa, wrote an essay on the life and character of his friend, from which we quote the following:

"The Félix Eboué whom we loved in our schooldays never changed. He was equally at home in the library and on the field of sport, he was passionately fond of music and rugby. . . . He was interested in everything: literature, the theatre, the arts, the ever-changing spectacle of life itself. He inspired sympathy in everyone, everywhere, because he himself emanated sympathy.

". . . From his earliest years as a colonial administrator, he bent every effort to make his own soul identical with that of the native people, to make himself a native. . . . His perfect command of the Ubangi languages helped him to govern the Negro populations of Bouca, Damara, Louango, and Bambari with infallible expertness. It is because he completely penetrated the meaning of Central African titles and distinctions, customs, beliefs, superstitions, mores, mythology, folklore, and linguistic idioms, that Eboué eventually developed into a great colonial administrator of the same stamp as Brazza and Van Vollenhoven.

". . . Félix Eboué had presided over the destinies of the Chad for eighteen months when the armistice was signed which made of France and her territories a nation of 110 million slaves. The great French governor refused to submit to this indignity. Like the republicans of 1789, he remembered that there are moments in the life of great nations when disobedience to official orders is the first and most sacred of duties. Thus he broke with the capitulators . . . and, by rallying French Equatorial Africa to the side of General de Gaulle, made it possible for the Free French leader to speak to the world in the name of Frenchmen of color.

". . . In losing this good man, this Negro Frenchman who gave his whole life to the service of France and who bore in his heart the love that the colored races of the entire world feel for her, France lost a colonial administrator of genius, a great patriot, and a great Frenchman."

VICTOR SCHOELCHER (1804-1893)

Victor Schoelcher was born in Paris in 1804, the son of a prosperous porcelain manufacturer. His earliest interest was in the field of fine arts, but in the mid-1820's he threw himself into the struggle of the republicans to overthrow the reactionary government of Charles X. In 1829, when he was twenty-five years old, he travelled to the United States, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the British and French West Indies, and became passionately interested in the abolition of slavery. For the next two decades, he was at the forefront of the anti-slavery movement. He joined the Society for the Rights of Man, and founded and edited numerous republican magazines. He was in constant contact with the abolitionists of the West Indies and gave eloquent expression to their grievances. In 1847, he visited Senegal and Gambia.

The revolutionary republican government of 1848 named Victor Schoelcher under-secretary of the navy and the colonies and chairman of a com-

(*Continued on page 221*)

French Embassy Information Division

VICTOR SCHOELCHER (1804-1893)

Joseph

Trans-Bay Federal Savings and Loan Association

ANOTHER forward step was taken by Negroes in the field of finance on January 22, 1949, when the Trans-Bay Federal Savings and Loan Association of San Francisco opened its offices with an initial capital of $150,000. More than 1,500 persons visited the premises on the opening days to view the facilities and to extend their good wishes.

There is a blending of modern design, materials and finish in the office facilities which conveys the feeling of informality and welcome. The customer is greeted with an atmosphere of modern substantiality from the moment he opens the glass and steel door and surveys the huge photomural of the San Francisco and Oakland areas connected by the Bay Bridge, which symbolizes the name of the institution, TRANS-BAY, and the beautiful tropical green and coral pink walls and ceiling, and blond oak wood work which is set off with the latest in fluorescent lighting.

George R. Vaughns, president of the association, has revealed that the people of the Bay Area are supporting this new financial institution in an encouraging manner. Individuals, fraternal organizations, churches, and clubs are opening accounts for from one dollar to twenty thousand.

In addition to the excellent support received from the people of the Bay Area communities, according to Vaughns, there has been a spirit of helpfulness and encouragement exhibited by officials of other financial institutions in the area. "They sent beautiful flowers, plants, letters, telegrams, and many of them visited our offices the day of our opening," he said.

Vaughns pointed out that federal savings and loan associations are chartered and supervised by the United States government, and that federal insurance of savings accounts up to $5,000 is made compulsory by law.

Officers and directors of the Trans-Bay Federal Savings and Loan Association are George S. Vaughns, president and director. Mr. Vaughns is an Oakland attorney, Most Worshipful Grand Master, F. & A. M. Grand Lodge, Prince Hall Affiliation, California Jurisdiction; and a member of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce. Harold Jenkins, vice-president and director, is owner of Jenkin's Enterprises, Oakland, and a member of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce. Joseph H. Stephens, vice-president, is veterinarian with the United States Department of Agriculture. Leo C. Higgs, vice-president, is a Berkeley realtor. Jefferson A. Beaver,

(Continued on page 220)

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

ACTING SECRETARY

Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the NAACP, was named on June 13 as acting secretary by the Association's board of directors at its regular monthly meeting. Mr. Wilkins will be executive head of the organization during the absence of Walter White, secretary, who was granted a year's leave following the board's refusal to accept his resignation.

As assistant secretary since 1931, Mr. Wilkins has been second in command of the staff and has regularly served as acting secretary in the absence of Mr. White. Prior to joining the NAACP staff, he was managing editor of The Kansas City (Mo.) *Call* from 1923 until 1931. When Dr. W. E. B. DuBois first left the Association in 1934, Mr. Wilkins succeeded him as editor of *The Crisis*, serving the NAACP in a dual capacity.

In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Mr. Wilkins has traveled extensively, speaking before clubs, forums, college groups, associations and conventions on various aspects of race relations. As chairman of the executive committee of the National Council for a Permanent FEPC, he has been in the forefront of the fight for equality of job opportunities.

In 1932, Mr. Wilkins and George S. Schuyler, disguised as day laborers, made an investigation of conditions in contractors' camps on the flood control project in Mississippi. Following their report, wages of Negro workers on the project were substantially increased.

During the one-week strike of Philadelphia transit workers against promotion of Negroes to jobs as motormen in 1943, he was in charge of NAACP activities in that city. In 1945 he served, along with Dr. DuBois and Mr. White, as an NAACP consultant to the American delegation at the founding conference of the United Nations in San Francisco.

Born August 30, 1901, in St. Louis, Mr. Wilkins was reared and educated in St. Paul, Minn., and was graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1923. He lives in New York with Mrs. Wilkins, the former Miss Minnie Badeau of St. Louis, to whom he was married in 1929.

HOUSING

FHA Head Explains: Federal housing administration commissioner Franklin D. Richards in June told a delegation protesting racial discrimination in Levittown, a lily-white Long Island housing project, that the FHA is "neutral" on the problem of discrimination in FHA-insured housing.

"We are neither for discrimination nor are we against it," Richards told the group, according to William Cotter, chairman of the committee to end discrimination in Levittown and leader of the Great Neck-Port Washington-Manhasset branch of the NAACP. In response to a demand that FHA approval be denied builders practicing jim crow, Mr. Cotter quoted Richards as asserting that it would be "presumptuous" of him (Richards) "to decide policy on such a controversial question," and that "the President is considering the problem."

Richards assured the group that he was "very sympathetic" to their request that the FHA bar restrictive covenants from leases and deeds of all FHA-approved homes, and indicated that such a ruling would be forthcoming from FHA headquarters within "a couple of months."

William J. Levitt, builder of Levittown, was forced by an intensive anti-bias campaign to remove the covenants from his leases in May, but he still refuses to sell or rent to Negroes. Mrs. Myrtle Archer, a member of the Jamaica branch of the NAACP, who attempted to purchase a home for her veteran son, was among Negroes told by sales agents that they were not welcome at the project. While she and Arthur Fraenkel, a white resident of the development, conducted a one-hour sit-down protest in the Lewittown sales office, representatives of the NAACP, the American Jewish Congress and other groups staged an impromptu protest rally outside.

Organizations represented in the nine-person delegation to Washington were the Great Neck-Port Washington-Manhasset NAACP, the American Jewish Committee, the N. Y. State Committee Against Discrimination in Housing, the Levittown Tenants' Council, Levittown B'nai B'rith, and the Levittown and Nassau-Suffolk American Labor party.

FEPC NO. 9980

NAACP Wins Case: Agreement that Mrs. Vivian L. Braxton would be given the regular six months period to demonstrate her fitness as a supervisor in St. Elizabeth's hospital brought to a successful close the first case heard under the Truman Fair Employment Order, No. 9980.

At the initial hearing on the case in December, 1948, evidence was cited to show that graduates of Howard University Medical School encountered difficulty in gaining admission to the hospital as residents and internes and that Negroes seeking jobs as supervisors were not admitted to the Richardson Service, a section of the hospital which chiefly handles white female patients.

The first hearing board recommend-

DELEGATES *to the third annual legislative conference sponsored by the Youth Division of the NAACP, Washington, D. C., April 20-23.*

Gem

ed that special effort be made to place qualified Negro personnel in supervisory and professional positions throughout the hospital. Mrs. Braxton charged, however, that she was denied admission to trial supervisory duties because of her race.

The NAACP appealed Mrs. Braxton's case to Leo L. Miller, fair employment officer of the Federal Security Agency. After deciding in her favor, Mr. Miller issued a statement to all fair employment officers of FSA suggesting that every effort be made to adjust complaints in a friendly manner. This statement was sent to the Social Security Agency, the Public Health Service, the National Institute of Health, and ten regional FSA offices.

MISCELLANEOUS

Votes NAACP Support: As part of the "constructive efforts" of its membership "to promote brotherhood among all races, creeds and cultures and . . . to fulfill and implement basic civil and human rights," the American Unitarian Association at its annual meeting in Boston in June, voted full support of the NAACP.

In a resolution submitted by the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice and voted unanimously by delegates representing the denomination as a whole, the Unitarian Association congratulated the NAACP upon its "fortieth anniversary of service to the American people" and suggested that its constituents "aid the program of the NAACP by urging participation of individual and group membership within its ranks."

Governor Driscoll Honored: A bronze plaque in recognition of his outstanding "contribution to the fight for human rights" was awarded to Gov. Alfred E. Driscoll of New Jersey at the annual meeting of the N. J. State Conference of branches of the NAACP.

Governor Driscoll was responsible for calling the constitutional convention which in 1948 ratified a new constitution for the State of New Jersey, guaranteeing the civil rights of all citizens.

The presentation was made by Dr. Ulysses S. Wiggins, vice-president of the N. J. State Conference.

Somalis Thank NAACP: In a letter of thanks addressed to Dr. Louis T. Wright, chairman of the NAACP board of directors, Abdullahi Issa, spokesman for the delegation of the Somali Youth League, expressed "deepest gratitude for the kind and invaluable assistance received from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, without which the delegation would have faced insurmountable difficulties."

Mr. Issa, who together with Ali Noor represented the inhabitants of Somaliland, came to New York to submit a petition to and appear before sessions of the United Nations in protest against the proposed return of his country to Italian administration. The delegation was aided in these efforts by Walter White, Roy Wilkins, and other members of the NAACP staff.

Current Back on Job: Restored to health after two months in a hospital, Gloster B. Current, director of branches, returned to his post in May.

Mr. Current had been granted leave of absence of six months by the NAACP board of directors. This extended leave was cut short by his speedy recovery. He was welcomed back by members of the national office staff on May 16.

Director of branches since September 1946, Mr. Current had previously been executive secretary of the Detroit branch. During his term of office the branch became the largest and one of the most active in the country.

ARTHUR GODFREY *(right) of WCBS is shown presenting a life-membership check to Charles A. Levy, executive secretary of the New York branch, 2272 Seventh Avenue, in the current membership campaign. Mr. Godfrey has pledged his support and announcements over the air on behalf of the NAACP.*

What the Branches Are Doing

CONNECTICUT: The youth council of the Bridgeport-Stratford branch, Mary H. Thornton advisor, has chalked up a victory in its fight on discrimination in a local skating rink.

Judge Philip J. Sullivan of the criminal court of common pleas declared on April 26, 1949, that discrimination must cease in places of public amusement and backed his assertion by imposing a fine of $100 and a five days' jail term (because of family troubles and the illness of his wife) on Earl Bradley, an attendant at a Bridgeport roller skating rink.

Bradley was accused of having failed to issue proper size roller skates to two Negro couples who had accompanied two white couples to the rink the night of June 19, 1948. Bradley, after a partial trial, pleaded guilty to violation of Section 86of, entitled "Alienage, race or

color discrimination." The defendant appealed from a $25 fine imposed by a Bridgeport court last January 17, after his demurrer had been overruled. The maximum penalty is a $100 fine and thirty days in jail.

When the colored couple, James Bethea and Margaret Nims, asked for skates they were unable to obtain the right size. Yet the white couple which followed them, asked for the same size skates, and was accommodated. The same procedure was gone through with the other Negro and white couple. The Negro couple was not accommodated, but the white one was.

The New England regional conference of NAACP branches meeting in NORWALK in April presented the Harry Smith Oswell award to the Amherst chapter of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, which had taken in a Negro student despite an ouster from the national organization. Harry Barnes of St. Paul, Minn., vice-president of the unit received the award on behalf of his chapter.

MARYLAND: Top honors in the BALTIMORE branch's annual oratorical and vocal contest were won by students from the Maryland State College, Princess Anne, and Lincoln University, Pa. Speaking on "The Veto at Home and Abroad," Farrell Jones of Lincoln walked off with first prize in the oratorical competition; and Daniel Rideout, Jr., of Maryland State won first place in the vocal unit. Other contestants on the program, held April 29 in the Sharp Street Memorial church, were Gerald J. Lewis, Lincoln, vocal; Lewis Harris, Hampton Institute, oratorical; Vernard Henley, Virginia State; William E. Carr, Howard; Ruth I. Johnson, Maryland State; Delores McNair, Hampton Institute; and Lenore Robinson, Morgan State.

The annual baby contest sponsored by the Baltimore branch was held on June 19 in the Sharp Memorial church, with more than 100 babies enrolled in the contest. Awards of a gold loving cup, a diamond ring, and a silver drinking cup were presented to the youngsters selling the highest number of votes.

The register-and-vote campaign of the Baltimore branch began on May 17 and continued through June, with the slogan "A Voteless People is a Hopeless People."

MARYLAND: Ninth annual Maryland state conference of NAACP branches was held in the Sharp Memorial Methodist church, Baltimore, on May 21. Speakers were Lucille Black, national membership secretary; Clarence Mitchell, national labor secretary; Thurgood Marshall, special counsel; William C. McWilliams, attorney-at-law; Furman Templeton, assistant director of the Baltimore housing authority; Leslie Perry, administrative assistant, Washington bureau NAACP; and Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, president of the conference. The 12:30 P. M. luncheon was a testimonial to Dr. Charles H. Houston, special counsel of the Maryland state conference of branches.

NEW JERSEY: The following editorial is from the June 8, 1949, issue of the *Trenton Times*. Clifford R. Moore's reply, also printed below, sets forth the official position of the Trenton branch on the use of "Little Black Sambo" in the Trenton schools. Mr. Moore is chairman of the legal redress committee of the New Jersey State Conference of NAACP Branches.

Harris-Ewing

MEMBERS *of the executive and membership committee of the Baltimore, Maryland, branch give a surprise shower to Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, branch president, on her birthday. She was presented a leather luggage set for her trip to the 40th annual NAACP conference in Los Angeles, California. Seated (left to right): Mesdames Mayme Griffin, Augusta Chissell, Lillie M. Jackson, Annie Harcum. Standings Mesdames Victoria Ridgely, Mary Hawkins, Frances Madden, V. T. Williams, Sallie Stewart, Florence Snowden, Viola Pichon, Rosa Parker, Gladys Taylor, Amanda Finch, Mamie Knowland, and Mr. William C. Harcum.*

Valentine

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN *of the Maywood, Illinois, youth council: seated (left to right): Jan Cox, Lavergue Roberts, Marilyn Jefferson, treasurer; Shirley Lyles, Jeanne Harwell, Virginia, secretary; Northica Kelley, and Mary Burke. Standing: Preston Harwell, Albert Stroud, advisor; Donald Harwell, president; Paul Robeson, Robert Hayden, vice-president.*

Sylvia Hazel

MEMBERSHIP *drive group of the Brooklyn, N. Y., youth council. Seated fourth from left is Herbert Hill of the national office.*

"COERCION WILL NOT SUCCEED"

"The Trenton Board of Education has conformed to the requirements of good sense in refusing to act on the appeal for the elimination of that traditional children's classic, "Little Black Sambo," from the libraries of the city's schools. The theory that this amusing and innocent story is productive of racial prejudices could hardly be more fantastic and reflects warped thinking somewhere along the line.

"As Margaret Halsey, author of 'Color Blind,' told a New York audience a few days ago, people cannot be coerced into the idea of racial equality. A spirit of intolerance cannot ruthlessly be plucked from the minds and hearts of men and women. On the contrary, it is likely to be deepened and intensified through such methods. The luminous ideal of tolerance in human relations can be achieved best through enlightened and understanding means.

" 'Little Black Sambo,' of course, is one of the most innocent of fictional creations. It is hardly less ludicrous to attribute harmful influences to the really sinister characters of literature, virtually all of whom lend themselves to association with some race or faith. When the striving for better understanding departs from rational and reasonable lines, the effort is certain to be harmed, rather than helped."

Here is Mr. Moore's reply:

"Editor
"Trenton Times
"Dear Sir:

"The editorial entitled 'Coercion Will Not Succeed,' referring to the NAACP objections to 'Little Black Sambo,' is not sustained by the facts.

"The NAACP would be resting upon sound grounds had it insisted that the book be eliminated from the Trenton school system, for the precedent had been established by the Board of Education stripping the magazine 'Nation' from the reference racks of the high school library.

"In appearing before the Board of Education, the NAACP representatives stated that 'the NAACP is fully cognizant of the inherent dangers of any form of censorship and by no means insists upon the elimination of this story from the reference racks of the library.' Our interest was centered solely upon the utilization of the most modern and constructive teaching methods and devices available. Opposition was expressed to the fact that 'Little Black Sambo' is not constructive in its utilization and stresses a dissimilarity based upon a system of paternalism totally unrelated to the present day cultural development of the Negro American.' For these reasons 'the NAACP must object to its employment as a teaching device.'

"This criticism was accepted by the Board of Education and it was agreed that Dr. Loser would issue instructions that the story would not be employed for any form of group instruction or in any fashion be emphasized by the individual classroom teachers.

"Under the circumstances, the *Trenton Times*' references to 'coercion' are without a foundation."

NORTH CAROLINA: The SANFORD CITY branch held a mass meeting on May 24 at the St. James AME church, with representations from other branches of the vicinity. Rev. J. S. Gants was the main speaker for the occasion.

Fred Edwards was elected delegate to the State NAACP Conference in June by the CHAPEL HILL branch. Plans have also been formulated to raise funds so that the local branch might be represented at the National Conference to be held in Los Angeles in July.

Mrs. Emma McNary, the newly elected director of the George White night school, presented the program for the coming term and submitted it to the board of trustees for branch approval. Raymond Burnett, Vin Cassidy, Fred Edwards, Olivia Edwards, Rev. J. H. Jones, Emma McNairy, and Susie Weaver were approved as trustees. The executive council decided to meet the first Wednesday of each month.

NEW YORK: Thirteenth annual New York state conference of NAACP branches was held at Jamestown May 28-29 with sessions centered around the conference theme of "Building Today for a Better Tommorrow." Among discussion leaders at the conference were Joy Simon of the National Conference of Christians and Jews; Attorney Jawn A. Sandifer, member of the legal defense committee of the New York branch; and Lionel Aldrich, regional vice-president. Addresses at the open public meeting in the afternoon were delivered by S. Miles Bouton, columnist of the Jamestown *Post Journal;* Dr. Carlyle C. King, superintendent of schools, Jamestown; and James Egert Allen, state conference president.

TENNESSEE: The JOHNSON CITY branch reports the sale of $12 worth of NAACP pins and $12 worth of NAACP stickers. The branch membership drive is still underway.

What the Regions Are Doing

WEST COAST: Regional secretary Noah W. Griffin was guest speaker on May 27 at a mass meeting of the Ogden, Utah, branch held at the Wall Avenue Baptist church. On May 29 Mr. Griffin spoke at a mass meeting called by the Salt Lake City branch.

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON: An amateur minstrel show which has given several performances in the Klamath Falls area has aroused the indignation of many local citizens. As result, the prospective sponsors of the show have been asked to meet with the local NAACP branch.

BOISE, IDAHO: In spite of the difficulties encountered in small communities with small Negro populations, the Boise branch has almost filled its 1949-membership-drive quota.

Eight workers, under the direction of Odell Johnson, have secured thirty-seven members toward the senior quota of fifty new members.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA: The legislative committee of the Santa Clara branch has been urging its national and state legislative representatives to support various bills favorable to the cause of minority groups. In letters sent to Assemblyman John F. Thompson and state Senator Byrd Salesman, the committee urged their support of AB151. which would prohibit segregation in the California National Guard units.

In a letter to Senator William F. Knowland, the committee urged his active support of $1070, the federal housing act of 1949.

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA: The Richmond branch has met twice with members of the local city council to urge their passage of an FEPC bill for the city. The branch has prepared a model bill which it presented to the council. Juanita Wheeler, branch secretary, reports good cooperation from local churches and other intergroup organizations.

The model bill as presented by the branch would prohibit discriminatory hiring practices by any city agencies and would have similar provisions included in all contracts and franchises awarded by the city. Violations would be punishable by a fine of $500 or by imprisonment for six months. The bill would also set up a committee to investigate the condition of race relations in the community.

SOUTHWEST: Firing both barrels at its chief target of segregation in education, the Texas State NAACP, acting through its attorneys, represened on this occasion by regional special counsel U. Simpson Tate, on Wednesday, May 11, filed two school suits simultaneously with the office of Hon. Randolph Bryant, federal judge of the United States Court for the Eastern District of Texas in Sherman, Texas.

The suits are on behalf of plaintiffs in Texarkana and Winnsboro, Texas, and they declare as their aim a permanent injunction "forever restraining" the defendants, the school boards of the two cities, "from further discriminating against Negro children . . . because of their race and color."

The Texarkana litigation, brought by five persons (Edward D. Fleeks, Mrs. Blanche Willis, Lamar W. Peters, J. L. Montgomery and A. M. Wright) acting as plaintiffs on behalf of six children, names as defendents Dr. H. W. Stilwell and the members of the board of trustees of the Texarkana independent school district, and specifically cites the fact that a junior high school, high school and junior college are maintained for the education of white children, while Negro children "are forced and compelled to attend one high school, the Dunbar high school, designated exclusively for Negro children which high school is situated on the bank of, and within one hundred feet from the Swamp Puddle Creek, which is substantially an open sewer; and that in the past it has overflowed and flooded the grounds" of Dunbar high school.

Further noting the inferiority of the Negro school, the complaint points out that the school is situated on U. S. Highway 67, creating a hazard to "the lives and limbs" of the students; that it is immediately adjacent to the freight yards of the Kansas City Southern Railroad; that generally the whole neighborhood is an undesirable one of gasoline stations, repair shops and the like; and that the physical facilities and curriculum of the school are so inferior as not to be comparable to those offered white children.

The Winnsboro complaint, representing 10 children through their parents (H. L. Christian, Mrs. Virlee Shaw, Mrs. Nancy Smith, Lathan Sterling, Mrs. Johnnie Mae White, Henry Lee Williams and Odis Williams) is brought against O. E. Moore, superintendent of the Winnsboro independent school district and the board of trustees. This suit charges that Negro high school children are required to travel 32 miles a day to a school described as "inadequate, unequal and unlike" the school for whites in Winnsboro, and that Negro grade school studens must attend "an old, worn and ill-conditioned frame building with outside toilets which are unsanitary and grossly unclean."

In contrast to this, the complaint alleges, schools provided for exclusive use of white children are modern in every respect, offering commercial, science and language courses not taught at all to Negro children.

Attorneys in the Texarkana suit are W. J. Durham of Dallas, Texas, NAACP resident counsel, and Mr. Tate. In the Winnsboro case attorneys are Otto Mullinax, of the Dallas firm of Mullinax, Wells and Ball; C. B. Bunkley, Jr. of Dallas, and Mr. Tate. Date for trial will be set later, according to Judge Bryant.

Erman

THIS GROUP *has been authorized to operate as a Bronx youth council of the NAACP pending approval of their charter by the executive board of the national organization.*

OFFICERS *of the Fort Valley State College chapter of the NAACP: (left to right) Napoleon Williams, reporter; Louise Loach, treasurer; William Alexander, president; Elizabeth Carter, secretary; and Dr. J. Milton Smith, advisor.*

TYLER, TEXAS: In a recent letter Gordon K. Shearer, executive secretary of the Texas State Parks Board, Austin, makes the almost fantastic assertion that the use of the State Park here by Negroes was "impossible" principally because "when the park was constructed there was no provision made for segregated toilets, and it would endanger public health to permit use of the park by persons for whom no sanitary facilities had been provided." Additionally, Mr. Shearer warned darkly that "there is always the possibility of a clash occurring between park patrons if the park is used by members of the white and Negro races." For relief, the park official suggested that Tyler Negroes appeal to the "U. S. Engineers" to construct a park for them.

The letter was written to T. R. Register, head of the Tyler Negro Chamber of Commerce, following Mr. Register's written request that the Park Board discontinue its policy of banning Negroes from the Tyler public facility. Not only have Negroes been, and are now barred, but no other facility of any kind is provided, as Texas "separate but equal" segregation law stipulates that there must be.

Upon receipt of Mr. Shearer's letter, Mr. Register referred the matter to the attention of the NAACP Southwest Regional Office in Dallas.

AUSTIN, TEXAS: Asking that "Negro citizens of appropriate stature and qualification" be appointed on Texas's proposed Commission on Higher Education, a letter was delivered in person on May 20 to Governor Beauford H. Jester by a committee comprised of J. H. Morton, W. Astor Kirk, and Donald Jones, NAACP regional secretary. The letter was signed by Mr. Morton, chairman of the committee on legislative action of the Texas Council of Negro Organizations, Mrs. C. H. Christian, president of the Austin branch, and Mr. Jones.

The commission, the governor revealed at a brief conference with the committee, is to make a detailed, statewide survey of Texas facilities for graduate education, and is thereafter to draft recommendations to the legislature for alteration and improvement of such facilities. At the moment Governor Jester is asking the legislature to authorize the creation of the commission.

The letter commended Jester's "foresight and initiative in this instance," and went on to point out that several important factors virtually required the presence of Negroes on the commission if that body were to be expected to discharge its obligations fairly to all Texas citizens.

DALLAS, TEXAS: Pointing out that "in the past the state of Texas has shown itself unwilling to provide equal educational opportunities and facilities to its Negro citizens," a letter from NAACP regional special counsel U. S. Tate to General Carl R. Gray, Jr., administrator of the Veterans' Administration in Washington, D. C., demanded that the VA-owned and operated McCloskey General Hospital at Temple, Texas, not be transferred to the University of Texas "without explicit and implicit instructions and directives as to its use by all of the citizens of Texas regardless of their race or color. . . ."

The fact that the transfer of McCloskey Hospital to University of Texas control was imminent came to light through introduction in the Texas legislature of the Zivley and McGregor bill, a measure intended to provide state funds for the proposed operation of "all or part" of the hospital by the university. Informed sources state that it is planned to operate the facility as a unit of the UT medical school, and that here medical students and nurses are to receive specialized practical training, serve internships and otherwise will be afforded facilities not now offered by the medical school.

While emphasizing that the NAACP did not by any means oppose the extention of facilities for the teaching of medicine and allied sciences in the state ("there is a great need for such training in this area"), Mr. Tate's letter called attention with equal emphasis to Texas's utter failure to provide any type of professional training for its Negro citizens, "with the exception of a synthetic college of law."

NEW LIFE MEMBER: Mrs. Pearl Carina Anderson, 2835 Dathe street, widow of the late philanthropist Dr. J. W. Anderson of Dallas, became a Life Member of the NAACP when she presented a check for $500 to Rev. B. R Riley, president of the Dallas, Texas, branch. The presentation took place in the southwest regional offices, and present, in addition to Mrs. Anderson and Rev. Riley, were Dr. George D. Flemmings, Fort Worth, state director of the current statewide membership drive for 35,000 members; Mrs. J. E. Craft, state organizer, and regional officers attorney U. Simpson Tate and Donald Jones.

Mrs. Anderson becomes Dallas's second Life Member, the other being Rev. E. C. Estell, whose St. John Baptist church congregation made him the distinguished gift last fall. Extremely active in civic affairs over a number of years, and formerly treasurer of the local

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branch, Mrs. Anderson at present serves as a member of the Dallas branch executive committee.

In presenting the check for her life membership, Mrs. Anderson stated: "I take this step with the hope of advancing freedom's cause for my people, and with the hope also of inspiring others to do as I am doing. None of us should fail to become a member of this great NAACP that has done and is doing so much for us. And all of us should join according to our means. Those who have more should give more, but even those of us with the least should not be missing from the ranks of membership." Sid Hilliard, prominent Houston businessman, who donated $50, and the Houston branch, which chipped in $200 were responsible for brightened prospects for the growing legal library of the southwest regional office it has been revealed by U. Simpson Tate, regional special counsel.

Mr. Hilliard's contribution was a direct personal donation, according to Mr. Tate, while the Houston branch raised the funds it gave at a party staged on May 19 at the Downtown Grill, an establishment owned and donated for the occasion by Julius White, husband of the branch's executive secretary, Mrs. Lulu B. White. About 300 guests attended the function, which had as its primary aim the raising of money to help finance the branch program. J. Don Davis, southwestern representative of the *Pittsburgh Courier*, acted as master of ceremonies and Sid Hilliard was chairman of the committee on arrangements.

TOWN HALL AWARD—*Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, acting UN mediator for Palestine, receives the Town Hall distinguished public service award on the occasion of his first public lecture since his return from the Middle East. April 27. Presenting the award is Peter Grimm (left), chairman of the board of trustees for Town Hall.*

Acme

"On the Beam" With Youth Councils

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA: The newly organized college chapter of the NAACP on the Berkeley campus of the University of California held a meeting on May 19, at which permanent officers for the group were elected. The Berkeley group is the first college chapter to be organized in the state of California, and brings the national total to 71. Officers of the group are James Clark, president; Edward Parnell, vice-president; Jinks Southard, secretary; and Cecil Jones, treasurer.

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA: The Savannah youth council has a campaign on foot to register 60,000 voters in conformity with the new Georgia voting laws. The campaign is a door-to-door campaign in which prospective voters are urged to register and vote in order to defeat the Talmadge gang, outlaw the Ku Klux Klan, get decent pay and job promotions, and to elect qualified Negroes and whites to public office.

Book Reviews

ANOTHER COUNTRY

***Alien Land.* By Willard Savoy. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 320pp. $3.00.**

The problem of living as a Negro in the United States has been told in fiction and non-fiction so many times that one might imagine its ramifications had been exhausted. Yet Willard Savoy in *Alien Land* tells a new-old story with such variations and power that one realizes how vital the tale still is and how much it needs to be repeated. His story is in the main that of the half-white Negro. It is reminiscent of Charles W. Chesnutt's color-line stories and of Walter White's *Fire in the Flint;* yet it does not too closely resemble either.

This is the story of Kern Roberts, son of a half-white father and a white mother. A dreamer with an unusually sensitive spirit, Kern becomes frustrated in learning to live as a Negro in this alien land which should be for him a mother country as for all other American citizens. His problem is intensified by his father's insistence that he shall live as a Negro, by efforts of his mother's people to carry him over the color line, by the father's crusading through The Freedom League for simple human justice, and by a series of violent deaths all of which grow out of the dilemma of race. First there is the murder of Kern's mother by a Negro in Washington, later the lynching of his Uncle Jake in Valley View, Alabama, and the rape and murder of his Aunt Paula by a white sheriff.

Savoy writes with broad, usually firm strokes, telescoping the action as he moves the scene from one section of the country to another—Washington, New York, Vermont, the deep South—showing with clarity the problems confronting Negroes at all social and economic levels. Almost every shade and variety of insult, humiliation, and even of physical violence, from the subtle slights of the North to the outright emasculation of the race in the South is here painted always in vivid and sometimes hideous colors.

But this is not all of the book. The pleasanter aspects of association of white and Negro people and the cooperation in interracial organizations are there side by side with injustice before the law, denial of civil rights, the determination of some southern white men to make of an attractive Negro woman "a white man's woman." It is in this phase of the story that Savoy does some of his strongest writing. His treatment of Attorney Roberts, Kern's father, both as a lawyer and as a leader of the Freedom League, and of Kern's bitter resentment of his father's adherence to the "cause" is dramatically effective and well balanced. His management of the love and marriage of Kern and Marianne, a white girl, is good; especially as to her shock upon learning that Kern is a Negro, her gradual acceptance of the insignificance of this fact, and the quiet simplicity with which she accepts him upon his return from a writing assignment overseas. At the same time the author gives to both father and son a maturing character which results in their reconciliation.

Though the book has many fine points, it shows certain weaknesses. First of all, the characters are not altogether consistent. Several times Kern slips out of character, as, for example, in his ready acceptance of the darker members of the race whom he has trained himself to hate from boyhood, and in his too easy adoption of dialectical usage. Similarly, Jake, though virtually unlettered, glides readily from dialectical usage to refined literary speech. As to style there are two notable faults. Far too much of the book is done in

fragmentary sentences even where these add nothing to the speed of the plot nor to the terseness of expression. Then Savoy uses a looping-back method, projecting his story forward a year or more and then back to an earlier period. Though generally well managed, the writer does not have as firm a command of this technique as is desirable.

This is Savoy's first novel, and even as such it deserves commendation. The faults are few and not glaring. *Alien Land* is frankly a protest novel effective in its candid and forceful presentation of the many-sided and highly contradictory aspects of interracial contacts.

ARTHUR E. BURKE

AFRO-CUBAN POETRY

Cuba Libre: Poems by Nicolás Guillén. Translated from the Spanish by Langston Hughes and Ben Frederic Carruthers. Illustrated by Gar Gilbert. Los Angeles, California: The Ward Ritchie Press, 1948. XI+98pp. $3.50.

Messers. Hughes and Carruthers have selected fifty-two representative poems of the Cuban poet Nicolás Guillén for publication in English. Although Sr. Guillén has had various of his pieces published in the anthologies and magazines (eight of these poems were first published in the November, 1948, *Crisis*), this is the first book-length English version of a considerable number of them selected from *Motivos de Son* (1930), *Sóngoro Cosongo* (1931), *West Indies Ltd.* (1934), *Cantos Para Soldados y Sones Para Turistas* (1937), *España* (1937), and *El Son Entero*.

Guillén is Cuba's greatest living poet, acclaimed by the illiterate and the sophisticated alike, and according to the critics one of the greatest now writing in Spanish. Endowed with marvelous lyric powers and keen social consciousness, "Guillén," explains Mr. Carruthers, "is the spokesman for the mulatto millions of the New World." His themes are the equivocal position of the Negro in Cuba, the dilemma of the mixed-blood, the pitiful life of the black worker and the gall of poverty, and the ironic fate of the black man in a white man's world. Guillén sings these themes in sonorous Spanish rhythyms punctuated with the mysterious chant words and proper names of the *santeria* or Afro-Cuban religious cult.

Guillén is also the great technical innovator who brought new rhythyms, subtle musical patterns, and new vistas into Cuban and Spanish verse. He is in a sense the father of Afro-Cuban poetry, which counts among its practitioners such eminent poets as Emilio Ballagas, Ramon Guirao, Gomez Kemp, and others. It was Guillén who introduced the *Son* as literary material, as well as that thoughtless-singing known as *jitanjáfora*.

Messers. Hughes and Carruthers include a representative cross section of Guillén's verse ranging from "Don't Know No English," "New Woman" and "Sabas," to the famous "Senemayá." As translations go, these are good, but they fall short of the spirit of the originals; especially in the dialetical poems. Chief stumbling block to communication of the essence of the dialetical verse is the fact that Guillén draws many of his figures from things Afro-Cuban which have no counterpart in American life. And the dialect of one language, it must be remembered, cannot be translated into the dialect of another. I take the poem "Mi Chiquita" as an illustration:

"La chiquita que yo tengo,
tan negra como é,
no la cambio por ninguna,
por ninguna otra mujé."
"Dat gal I got,
black as she is,
I ain't tradin' for nobody."

"My Gal" is accurate enough as a literal rendering of "Mi Chiquita," but the suggestiveness and the music of the original, we notice, is lost in the coarser English dialect. This is true of all the dialectical verse.

For those who do not read Spanish or own a copy of *El Son Entero* (Guillén's collected verse published by Editorial Pleamar of Buenos Aires), I recommend these English versions of Messers. Hughes and Carruthers. *Cuba Libre* is a beautiful job of book making and Gar Gilbert's drawings catch the spirit of the text. *Cuba Libre* here is not the drink, but the Cuban cry of liberation and patriotism.

J. W. I.

Wide World

GOVERNOR BEAUFORD H. JESTER, *of Texas, listens to plea of Negro students for better professional educational facilities in Texas.*

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

***The Negro's Adventure in General Business.* By Vishnu V. Oak, Ph.D. Wilberforce, Ohio: Published by the author, 1949. 224pp. $3.75.**

"Giving attention to one of the current needs of our American democracy, that of integrating minority groups into the over-all activities of American economic life," is the purpose of Dr. Oak's projected series on "The Negro Entrepreneur." The first volume in the series was *The Negro Newspaper;* now we have the second, *The Negro's Adventure in General Business.*

An increase in income for many Negroes, with seventy-five percent of this income being spent on necessaries, would indicate that there is no more pertinent topic than Negro business. And the author is well equipped to write on this subject. He has had wide experience as an consultant at many business conferences devoted to Negro business and broad academic training in this field.

He discusses Negro business historically and then proceeds to outline those elements necessary for its growth. According to the author, the problems of Negro business do not lie so much in the inadequacy of capital or credit, but rather in the difficulty of securing well-trained personnel, both in the lower as well as the higher brackets.

Here is a book which should be called to the attention of every college student interested in business. It can be a directive for the trained, and an incentive to the untrained.

WARREN ST. JAMES

Trans-Bay Association

(*Continued from page 212*)

secretary and director, is a San Francisco realtor as well as director of the United Security and Investment Corporation. Joseph T. Hart, assistant-secretary, is deputy collector of internal revenue. William McKinley Thomas, treasurer and director, is a San Francisco physician and surgeon, commissioner of the San Francisco Housing Authority, and member of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Aramis Fouche, chairman of the board of directors, is owner of the Hudson Funeral Home, Oakland, and member

of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Zola Benjamin, chief clerk, has a background of newspaper experience and office administration with the state and federal government.

Eboué and Schoelcher

(Continued from page 211)

mission to draft legislation for the abolition of slavery in all the French colonies. This legislation was passed in April, 1848. From then on, Schoelcher devoted himself to defending these laws against innumerable attacks and to advancing other liberal and humanitarian causes. He was elected a representative to the Constituent Assembly from both Guadeloupe and Martinique. He was instrumental in abolishing the penalty of the lash in the navy, and in obliging the railroad companies of the day to provide covered and heated railroad coaches for third-class passengers. He fought against capital punishment and for the democratic election of army officers. Exiled by the government of Louis Napoleon, he spent nearly twenty years in London, writing remarkable polemics against the Imperial regime.

Exiled in London

From his exile in London, Schoelcher studied with deep sympathy the movement of the American abolitionists and the Civil War. When Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, several French newspapers suggested that a campaign be organized to collect funds for a gold medal to be presented to Mrs. Lincoln. Within a few weeks, tens of thousands of French men and women had responded. Victor Schoelcher, although still in exile in London, was immediately asked to serve on the committee representing the first thirty thousand contributors. In his answer, he declared himself honored to be associated with the "medal destined to glorify the martyr of the abolition of slavery in America." Schoelcher was from a completely different background than Lincoln, but he was like him in his sterling honesty, lofty moral principles, and warm human sympathy.

Like his friend Victor Hugo, Schoelcher refused to take advantage of the amnesty laws of 1859 and 1869, remaining in exile until republicanism again won the day in 1870. Then he returned to France, took part in the defense of Paris, and was elected to the National Assembly by 150,000 voters of the Seine department, as well as by the people of Martinique and Guiana. He tried vainly to end the civil conflict between the Commune and the Versailles government.

As a member of the Parliament during the early years of the Third Republic, he continued to fight "for democracy against privilege." He advocated complete juridical, political, and educational equality for the colonial populations, opposed segregation in the colonial armed forces, worked for prison reform and the protection of children. He aroused public opinion on the persistent slave trade in East Africa.

He was the author of numerous historical and political treatises on slavery, colonial legislation, and race prejudice; of a *Life of Toussaint Louverture* and of a *Life of Händel* in English. Throughout his long life, he was a profound student of music and an art connoisseur. He left an unusual collection of African and American Indian musical intruments and a Händel library to the Conservatoire de Musique, 18,000 rare books to the Bibliothèque Nationale, and 9,000 engravings to the École des Beaux-Arts. He willed his sculpture collection to Guadeloupe and his library to Martinique, expressing the wish that these gifts should form the nucleus of educational institutions "open to the public every day."

A plaque presented to him by a group of admirers reads: "He devoted his life to the building of the Republic, the conquest of freedom, the defense of justice, the service of the fatherland and the cause of humanity."

Chestnutt Remembered

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peared in 1889 as *The Conjure Woman;* it was followed by *The Wife of His Youth and Other Stories of the Color Line* (1889), *The House Behind the Cedars* (1900), *The Marrow of Tradition* (1901), and his last novel, *The Colonel's Dream* (1905). The literary tradition begun by this pioneering American novelist, for whom Cleveland, Ohio, became a symbol of hope and freedom and inspiration, persists today in the fiction of such men as Walter White and Rudolph Fisher; as a matter of fact, many scholars feel that Chesnutt's books either foreshadow or actually contain the early drafts of the great bulk of recent Negro novels. It is not a heartening thought that the first Negro to "make" the *Atlantic Monthly* in 1887 with his "The Goophered Grapevine," and certainly the most solid representative of prose fiction the Negro can boast before the 1920's, had to forsake the South to realize his legal and literary ambitions.

Only five of Chesnutt's twelve brothers and sisters are living, and only two of the five have remained in the South. Both Ann Chesnutt Waddell and Sarah Chesnutt, retired teachers and property owners, can well look back upon nearly a half century of successful teaching and supervisory duties in the school of Cumberland county and Fayetteville. In 1937 a large rural high school for Negro youth was constructed in Cumberland county near Fayetteville and is now called the Ann Chesnutt High School in honor of one of the country's foremost teachers. No one of Chesnutt's children has aspired to writing as a career and no one of them has followed the legal profession; by and large they have followed the work of teaching and only one of them, Mrs. Ethel Chesnutt Williams of Washington, D. C., has chosen to live in the South. The famous novelist's only son, Edward Chesnutt, became a dentist and until his death in 1941 lived in Chicago. Similarly, Dorothy Chesnutt Slade and Helen M. Chesnutt, retired teachers, have made their home in Cleveland. Helen is currently writing a biography of her highly-esteemed father—Charles W. Chesnutt.

Forrestal Record

(Continued from page 204)

strike at the most advantageous moment. After all, Congress has a way of twisting the budgetary arm of a department when things are not done to suit it. President Roosevelt's FEPC is a dead example of this technique.

Today, Negroes are finding the Navy a better place in which to live, work, and defend their country. It is not unreasonable to believe either that the Navy feels some pride in its own accomplishment. On June 3 a Washington youth by the name of Brown—Ensign Wesley A. Brown—became the first of his race ever to graduate from Annapolis. The cooperation given by the institution and the Department to the press that was anxious to report this significant event would seem to reflect this delight.

But none of this happened over night, as some sections of America are inclined to think. Nor will anyone claim that the last vestige of discrimination and prejudice have been removed from the Navy, even now. The Department is, however, a long way from the archaic thinking that prevailed in the early days of defense and of war. An honest-to-goodness program was not

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